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J. C. Stadler Jr.

Women of the Balearic Isles.

TRAVELS

THROUGH THE

BALEARIC AND PITHIUSIAN

ISLANDS,

PERFORMED BETWEEN THE YEARS 1801 AND 1805.

BY A. G. DE ST. SAUVEUR, JUN.

CONSUL OF FRANCE AT THE BALEARIC ISLES, AUTHOR OF PICTURESQUE TRAVELS THROUGH THE VENETIAN ISLES, &c. &c.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

IT has been justly remarked that Modern Travellers are addicted to describing such countries as have been newly discovered, while they neglect those which gave them birth. When America was discovered, and afterwards the islands in the Pacific Ocean, all travellers were indifferent to every other part of the world.

To give a complete description of an extensive country is an undertaking beyond the competency of one individual; for besides the variety of knowledge which he ought to possess, he should also have the means of travelling, of residing for a length of time in particular places, and rewarding the natives, whose services he will require on various occasions.

Convinced of this evident principle, that the knowledge of the geography of a kingdom can only be acquired by general encouragement and liberal assistance, Philip II, of Spain, transmitted in 1575, orders and instructions to all the prelates and governors of the different provinces in his kingdom, directing them to draw up memoranda of every thing worthy of notice, in their respective districts. This task, however, was only executed in part, as its completion was prevented by political events.

The Balearic and Pithiusian islands, therefore like most of the other provinces of Spain, had their historians and local geographers; but the writers being natives of the parts which they have described, so far from giving true accounts, have embellished them with all those wonderful additions which the imagination and partiality engender.

With respect to the Pithiusian isles, there is no work extant in which they are described with interest; their history being founded entirely upon what has been written relative to the Balearics. In my Account, however, I have omitted no opportunity to gain the most accurate information as to their *present* state; and the following work may therefore be considered as the result of all the materials I have been able to collect, during a research of six years in the respective places. Indeed, I may venture to offer it as the most exact and ample description which can be procured of the coasts, and the interior of the islands in question; and I have, in particular, inserted every thing that relates to the character, manners, customs, industry, commerce, costume, and language of the inhabitants.

I have also devoted a chapter to the antiquities which have been found, or still exist on the different islands; and I conclude the whole with an historical sketch. The Balearics have made only a secondary figure in the events which compose the history of the others; nevertheless, the facts which I have collected, are by no means unworthy of attention.

TRAVELS

THROUGH THE

BALEARIC AND PITHIUSIAN ISLANDS.

CHAP. I.

SITUATION OF THE BALEARIC AND PITHIUSIAN ISLANDS — ORIGIN OF THEIR NAMES — EXTENT — FIGURE — COASTS, AND ANCHORAGE OF THE ISLANDS OF MAJORCA AND CABRERIA—DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLAND OF MAJORCA.

UNDER the name of the Baleares, or Balearic Isles, are comprised the isles of Majorca, Minorca, and Cabreria; they are situated in that part of the Mediterranean formerly called the Iberian sea, because it washed the shores of Spain, the ancient Iberia, and afterwards Balearic, from the names of these two islands. In the time of the Greeks, they were called the Gymnesias: the name of the Baleares was given them by the Romans. According to the best writers of antiquity, Polybius, Strabo, and Pliny, these two denominations had their origin from the particular manners of the inhabitants of these islands in times past. The name Gymnesias expresses the custom of the first inhabitants of going naked; and that of Baleares is derived from their singular skill in the use of the sling. They are now known by the names of Majorca and Minorca.

Cabreria is a small island dependant on, and very near to Majorca; it has its name from the custom of the Majorcans keeping their flocks of goats to pasture at this place.

By the name of Pithiuses are distinguished the three islands of Ivica, Formentera, and Conejera, situated in that part of the Mediterranean called the Gulf of Valencia. They were known to the Greeks and Romans by this denomination; which by some is thought to be derived from the great number of pine trees with which they abound; and by others, from a kind of pottery formerly made by the inhabitants, which was one of the chief articles of commerce with strangers. The vases of

this pottery were said to have the extraordinary virtue of not receiving or imbibing any kind of poison. Majorca, the most considerable of the Baleares, describes a square, the projecting points of which are the capes Pera, to the east; Grosses, to the west; Fromentor, to the north; and the Salines, or salt-pits, to the south. The circumference is about 143 miles, 54 east and west in length, and 42 north and south in breadth. It is 28 miles from the roadstead of Palma to the Bay of Alcudia.

The island of Majorca is distant 26 miles W. S. W. from the nearest point of land of Minorca, 45 E. N. E. from Ivica, 90 S. S. E. from Barcelona; 135 N. N. W. from the Cape Tenis, in Africa. The latitude of this island is 39° 57′ 15″; the longitude 9° 40″ E. from the Royal Marine Observatory at Cadiz.

On approaching the shore, and keeping to the east of the isle of Majorca, we soon discover Cape Blanc: going coastways to the South we see that of the Salines, where there is good anchorage, sheltered from the winds, which blow from the land. Continuing the same course, we find a small road, called Cale-Figuieres; it can only receive vessels of small burthen. Pursuing our course along the coast, we come to the port Pera; it is half a mile wide at the mouth, and runs about two miles into the land. A few gallies, or at the most, six or seven ships, that draw but little water, can anchor here in good ground.

We next come to another small harbour, called Colomb, where there is anchorage only for small craft; it runs in shore near a mile and a half. The village is about two miles from the port.

Between the cape of the Salines and the isle of Cabreria there are many shoals, and several little islands. Fishermen generally resort here, as there is plenty of fish.

Cape Pera is the last of the island of Majorca: to the east, going thence north, we find the bay of Alcudia, where the anchorage is sheltered by Cape Ferrouil. W. N. W. of the bay, about two miles distant, is the town of Alcudia.

Continuing a course to the N. after doubling the cape of Alcudia, we make the port of Polenza, which was called by the ancients *Portus Minor*, to distinguish it from that of Alcudia, which they called *Portus Major*. There is good anchorage in this port for ships of almost any burthen, where they are sheltered from every wind, and protected by a tower tolerably well fortified. This tower is situated half way up the harbour, where there are also several windmills. There is plenty of fresh water to the South of the tower.

The village of Pollenza is two miles from the sea shore, and

is situated behind a mountain. Pollenza and Alcudia are the two best anchorages of the island of Majorca. At the entrance of the roadstead of Pollenza, there is, on the right, a little island near the land; at the mouth, the soundings are from 27, 23, 20, and 17 fathoms; diminishing gradually. At the time of the expedition against Mahon, under the command of the Maréchal de Richelieu, the squadron and the Spanish convoy were at anchor in the bay of Alcudia, at the same time that the port of Pollenza was occupied by the English. To the west of Pollenza is the coast of Soller, which is dangerous, as it consists of lofty barren mountains, and has no good anchorage; it is necessary to go large from the land in this place, as a shoal runs out ten miles distant, where the soundings are ten fathoms; the sea breaking over it is very dangerous, and elsewhere denotes other shallows which are not known; therefore great care is necessary, in bad weather, to go very large from this dangerous shore, which affords no other shelter than the little port of Soller; only fit for small trading vessels which draw but little water. The mouth of this harbour is narrow, and difficult to enter. A battery of four pieces of cannon defends the entrance. It is here that the small craft of the island take in their cargoes of oranges for France, and some few for Spain.

The isle of the Dragonieres is situated in the latitude 30° 40′. It has two towers for its defence, where the signals to the ships are displayed. There is a passage to Friou, between the Dragonieres and the island of Majorca; but it requires great caution in the navigation, as there are, near the middle, rocks which are almost level with the water, and some of which appear above it. Towards the South is a small port, called Andraig; the entrance is so narrow that it is hazardous for ships to go in. The anchorage is in seven and eight fathoms, and a muddy bottom.

Pursuing the same route, you make the Cape Fromentor, where begins the road of Majorca to the westward. Having doubled the Cape, you enter the roadstead: it is extensive, and there is good anchorage; but open to the south-west, which occasions a great deal of sea. The Point of Saint Charles is seen protected by a castle of the same name, which is square, and was built by the Emperor Charles the Fifth. The Port aux Pins is an harbour where vessels of a certain burthen, and even frigates are moored by cables made fast on shore. The ships are protected from every wind; and the entrance was formerly shut by means of a chain. This port can only contain a small number of vessels; the mouth is defended by a battery situated on the point next the town, upon which, in

front, is the light-house, which serves to direct mariners in the night, and to make signals to the ships observed in the offing.

About half way from Port aux Pins to the town, is situated the castle of Belver, on a hill. It was built by King Don Jayme II. It is of an oval form, and rather large. On the side next the town is first seen a large round tower, which, at a distance, appears detached from the castle: state prisoners are confined here. This fort, guarded by about fifty infantry, is under the command of a lieutenant colonel, retired from active service.

A little distance from Belver, on the brow of another hill, which descends to the sea, is built the Lazaretto. It was constructed in 1656, and is divided into several wards, where they air and purify the merchandize. Two of these compartments, situated at the bottom of the hill, on the sea shore, are absolutely of no use in rainy seasons; the flowing of the water inundates them entirely. The passengers have no other lodging than some little rooms in the upper part of the building. This lazeretto, by the few conveniences, or rather by the many inconveniences found there, is not very well suited for the purpose of its establishment. Its vicinity to the town, and to a much frequented road, would be dangerous in case the persons or effects being kept there, should be infected with the plague. These observations gave birth to the design of building a new pest-house on the island of Cabreria; the situation could not be better; but the distance, and the passage by sea, present risks and expences too burthensome to commerce: the project was therefore given up, and the interest of the merchant prevailed against the consideration of the public health.

The port of Palma is small, and can only admit vessels which draw but little water; they moor in the north part, at the mole.

The centre of the island of Cabreria is at the distance of ten miles N. E. ¼ N. from the cape of Salines of Majorca; its latitude is 39° 7′ 30″, and the longitude 9° 16′ 20″ E. from the Observatory of Cadiz. This island is of some elevation, and is three miles in length S. W. and N. E. and two miles and three quarters E. and W. in breadth; the shore is clean, and the bottom is, generally speaking, sea-weed. Not far from the coast there are some small islands, which are seen at the same time with Cabreria.

Almost in the middle of that side of the island which looks to the south, there are four small islands, which they call Estellens. The two highest are very near, and almost touch Cabreria; and the two others are farther from the first,

about a cable's length and a half to the south. The coast of these islands is clean, and vessels of any burthen may pass through the straight they form.

At the south-east of Cabreria is another small island called Imperial, higher than the others, but situated so near the coast, that it is with difficulty even boats can pass.

About one third of a mile to the north of Cape Ventosa, which is the farthest N. E. from Cabreria, is the island Redonda, larger than the Imperial. Vessels of all descriptions can pass between Redonda and Ventosa ; the depth is ten or twelve fathoms.

In the passage from Isle Imperial to Cape Ventosa, is seen Bleda, a little low island, almost touching the other shore. Between Bleda and Cape Ventosa, the coast forms a large creek, in which, in the northern part, is a road called Olla, and to the south another called Bori : they only serve for the fishing-boats.

To the N. 35° W. of Cape Ventosa, distant about a mile, and two miles and one third to the N. 67° $\frac{1}{3}$ E. of Cape Levêchè, is the S. W. extremity of the island of Conejera, the highest and most considerable of all those in the neighbourhood of Cabreria.

Conejera is about a mile in length from N. N. E. to S. S. W. There is a passage through the straight formed by Cabreria and the Isle Redonda. The soundings are ten and twelve fathoms.

At the N. N. E. extremity of Conejera there are four little islands close together ; three are called the Planes, and the fourth Furadada, which is the highest. The straight which these islands form is deep, but so narrow, that nothing but boats can pass through.

The island Furadada, and the Cape Salines of Majorca, are five miles and a half distant from each other, N. E. 3° N. and S. W. 3° S. In the middle of this passage the soundings are 20 and 25 fathoms ; the depth decreases near the two shores to 10 fathoms.

In these straights we frequently meet strong currents, which follow the direction of the winds that prevail.

The port of Cabreria is a little distant to the S. S. E. of Cape Levêchè. This cape is a land-mark. There is seen, at the entrance of the port, a cavern, called Obispo, which you leave to the starboard; and, to larboard, the Point of Creveta, which is the easternost, and forms the port. Within this point is observed the castle of Cabreria, situated on a mountain. The entrance of the port is about a cable's length in breadth ; and

there are every where from 20 to 25 fathoms; so that the largest ships may enter.

Having doubled the point of Creveta, several fishermen's huts appear; opposite to which there is anchorage in eight and ten fathoms. Vessels may be moored on the eastern side, and ride safely with two anchors. The port is large, and the shores which inclose it are level. The north wind blows into the harbour.

Having the wind to the north-west, blowing fresh, to go into the port of Cabreria, care must be taken to keep the Cape Levêchè to the N. W. since, from that Cape to the anchorage, the squalls from the mountains are sometimes so strong, that they carry away the masts of a vessel. The same attention must be paid with the wind at east.

At a little distance, on the east of the point Creveta, there is a large creek, called the road of Gandus: the bottom is good, but this road is open to the north and north-east. It often happens that, owing to voyagers not having a perfect knowledge of the coast, they confound this creek with Port Cabreria. To avoid the mistake the Cape Levêchè must be made, and then the coast pursued to the anchorage.

At a mile and three quarters to the S. 15° W. of the Cape Levêchè, and that of Picamoscas and near to the middle of the coast of that Cape, there is a little creek called Galeota. Between the Cape Picamoscas and that of Ansiola, which is the most southern of the Island, is another creek which has an island at its entrance. These two creeks are only frequented by fishermen, who come hither to fish when the wind is at east.

The island of Cabreria is nearly uncultivated. Some islanders with the garrison of the castle, which is from ten to twelve men in time of peace, and from forty to fifty in time of war, compose the whole population. The Majorcans keep at pasture in Cabreria flocks of goats. This island supplies a small quantity of fire wood.

THE ISLAND OF MAJORCA.

The island of Majorca is very hilly, particularly in that part which is opposite to Catalonia. The N. E. part is separated from the S. W. by a chain of lofty mountains. Its population is divided into fifty-two inhabited places, two cities, thirty villages, and the rest small hamlets; the quality of the soil is excellent, and its productions with the exception of corn, sufficient for the consumption of the islanders.

Leaving Palma, the capital of the isle, and going to the E. keeping along the sea coast, the first village of any note that we come to is Lluch the greater, situated on a pleasant plain, famous for the battle in which king Don Jayme the third

lost his life and crown. This village was built by king Don Jayme the second in the year 1300; the number of its inhabitants amounts to near 3500.

Corn and figs are the principal productions of this canton; it also maintains a considerable number of cattle. The streets and houses of Lluch the greater, are tolerably regular.

The principal church is that belonging to the Convent of Saint Francis; the architecture is simple, and in other respects it has nothing remarkable. Near this village is a mountain called La Randa. On the summit is a college with a chapel, where about fifty young children are instructed in the first rudiments of learning, at the expence of the university of Palma. From the top of La Randa, is beheld the most delightful prospect; on one side is a grand view of the sea, and on the other the country, which presents a cheerful landscape. The mountain La Randa has obtained a celebrity from the retreat of Raymond-Lulle, chief of the sect of the Lullists, who was as famous for his enthusiasms, and the delirium and extravagance of his propositions, as illustrious for his virtues. This philosopher, surnamed the illuminated doctor, was born in the isle of Majorca, in 1236; he applied with indefatigable perseverance to the study of the philosophy of the Arabians, to chemistry, physic, and theology, and at length went to preach the gospel in Africa, and was stoned to death in Mauritania, on the 29th of March, 1315. He is esteemed a martyr among the people at Majorca, where his body was conveyed, and deposited. His absurd doctrines have still a number of followers in the university of Palma.

About a league and a half from this city is a pond called le Prat: the unwholesome exhalations of this collection of stagnant water, are very prejudicial to the cultivators of the lands in the vicinity. This pond might be easily drained by conducting the waters to the sea, which is very nigh.

Two leagues to the S. E. is the village of Campos; it is not so considerable as Lluch the greater; it was also founded in the thirteenth century. The lands are divided into corn fields and meadows. The wealth of the inhabitants, the number of whom is at most four or five thousand, consists chiefly of corn and cattle. Campos is not far from the royal salts pits, which are situated on the sea shore. They do not obtain from these pits the quantity, which a more extensive operation would certainly procure.

A league to the N. of Campos there is a mineral spring, called Saint John's Fountain, which is a specific for the itch and other cutaneous distempers. Probably virtues of greater extent

might be discovered, if these waters were analysed. M. Bleau in his "*Atlas genéral*," speaks highly of this spring.

Continuing in the road to the N. we come to a large plain well cultivated, and very fertile in corn, and which might with propriety be called the granary of the island of Majorca. This extent of land is occupied by the villages of Porreras, Algaida, Montuiri, Villa-Franca, San Juan, and Petra. The population in this canton may be about 11 or 12000 souls.

The inhabitants obtain from hence wines, brandies and olive oil for their consumption, but corn is their chief wealth. The gardens produce abundance of roots and culinary vegetables of every kind. They gather yearly a large quantity of figs, which they dry. Their flocks are sufficient for the purposes of manuring the land as well as for the consumption of the country.

At *Petra* is a paper-mill, but the manufacture is of a very ordinary quality.

Continuing our way along the sea-shore a little more to the E. of the Cape des Salines, (Salt Pits), we come to the village Santagni; it is well built with stone of an excellent quality, which is found in the neighbourhood. Santagni was often forsaken by its inhabitants, at the times when the Barbary corsairs made incursions into the interior of the lands. The parish church is remarkable for is size, but the architecture is heavy and in bad style. The population of Santagni amounts to 5000 souls. The lands in this part of the island are very fertile, and produce much wheat and barley. In the vicinity of Santagni, are a great number of tombs, which are said to be of the times, when the Romans were in possession of Majorca. I wished to be convinced of the truth of this assertion, but could not find any inscription to remove my doubts on the subject. Tradition alone says that these sepulchres belonged to the Romans.

To the north of Santagni, about three leagues distant, is the village *Felanix*, which is one of the largest and best built in the island; it contains 5 or 6000 inhabitants; they grow plenty of corn and have a sufficient number of cattle; but their chief wealth is derived from their brandies. Felanix is the canton which furnishes the most in quantity, and the best in quality of this liquor; the exportation of which is one of the most advantageous branches of commerce in Majorca. The monks of St. Augustine have here a handsome convent. Half a league from this village there is a small hill, on the top of which is a chapel where the islanders pay their devotions to an image of Christ, which has given the name of San-Salvador to this mountain; near the chapel is a kind of inn, for the accommodation of the pilgrims, whose devotion leads them to the place. There is a convenient

ascent cut in the rock to the summit of the hill. The Majorcans preserve with particular care those small chapels, which are built on the summit of almost every mountain in the island.

Four leagues N. ¼ N. E. from Felanix is Manacor, a village situated in a fertile plain; most part of the land belongs to the noblesse of Majorca, who here pass the summer. Manacor is one of the largest villages in the island; the population is estimated at the number of 7000; the inhabitants are rich in corn, wines, vegetables, figs, and herds of cattle. The monks of St. Dominic have a small convent at Manacor. They shew in the parish church an old picture of the crucifixion, and praise highly the painting. I could not judge of its merits, because the chapel is very dark. I remarked the same want of light in almost all the churches of Majorca.

To the E. is the little village Sanservera; it is very near the sea.

To the north of Sanservera, is Arta, which is built on a rough and hilly situation. This village is one of the largest and handsomest of the island; contains about 8000 people; the inhabitants keep numerous flocks and herds of cattle; the chief produce is oil and vegetables; they also grow cotton, which they have in perfection. This canton abounds with game of every kind. In the environs of Arta are some grottos and caverns, which might agreeably employ the naturalist in philosophical researches.

Arta is surrounded by country houses, where the nobles of the island pass the summer. The stranger is received with a frankness and good nature, rare even among those people, who boast most of their hospitality, and who fancy they possess a superior degree of civilization. There is a mountain that commands a prospect of the whole village, and from which may be seen the sea, in five different directions: on the top of this mountain is a small hermitage, taken care of by a devout old woman; she shewed us an antique statue of the Holy Virgin, of which she related some prodigious miracles; the walls bore many testimonies of its efficacy, and of the gratitude of the islanders, who had been restored to health by their faith in the powers of this image. I went over the ruins of an old castle, which formerly belonged to the Moors; a part of which had served to form the hermitage I had just quitted. There only remained a walled enclosure, and some subterraneous apartments, the entrances of which are almost choaked up with heaps of stones. From thence I went to a convent of Franciscan monks. I was attended by one of them, who, like the old woman at the hermitage, related miracles performed by every statue of a saint, with which the church was

ornamented. The library was the last thing he shewed, and at my request, and on this occasion he told truth, for he assured me that I should find nothing curious; in fact there was only a heap of old Spanish books, bound in parchment. I opened several of them; they were on theological subjects. Just as I was leaving this library, my conductor stopped me, and made me observe about half a dozen helmets and some armour, which were placed on the upper shelves; the distance and the darkness of the place, prevented me from forming a judgment of them; and desirous to make some interesting discovery, I entertained hopes that they might be remains of armour, which formerly had belonged to the ancestors of the Majorcans. The monk corrected my error, by telling me that what I had observed with so much attention was the work of his own hands, and made use of to dress some children on the days of procession. These helmets, bucklers, and cuirasses, in fact were nothing but pasteboard covered with paper, which by dust and time had acquired the appearance of age, that caused my mistake.

A short distance to the east of Arta, is the castle of Pera, built on the top of a small mountain, about the third of a league from Cape Pera; it is only an enclosure of walls with battlements, furnished with three or four pieces of artillery. This miserable castle overlooks some poor habitations built on the declivity of the mountain.

Leaving the mountainous lands of Arta we reach a large plain, which extends as far as the shore of the bay of Alcudia: in this plain, and a little distance from the sea, are the villages Saint-Marguerite, Muro, Peubla, and Campanet; the number of people inhabiting this canton, is about 10,000; corn, honey, hemp, oil, carroubs, with the flocks and herds of large and small cattle, compose the wealth of the inhabitants. The gardens also produce great quantities of fruits and vegetables. The melons and citrons of Peubla, are remarkable for their size and quality. In the neighbourhood of Muro, is a quarry of excellent stones for building; as there is also in the environs of Felanix. Near St. Marguerite are found a number of tombs, which are said to be as ancient as the time of the Romans.

I remarked a particular taste in the construction of the public edifices and churches of these village; the largest and finest of which is that of Peubla.

A little to the S. W. of Campanet, is Selva Inca, Beninsalem, and Sansellas; these villages are in the most fertile part of the island. The inhabitants amount to about 11,000 persons; they are in general in good circumstances; they have a considerable quantity of corn, wine, oil, carroubs, almonds, and fruits of every

kind, with some silk: they keep flocks and herds of cattle, which are sufficient for their consumption, and the labours of husbandry.

The situation of Selva is very pleasant, surrounded by hills covered with trees; this village presents a perspective as cheerful as varied: water is found in abundance, and contributes much to the fertility of the country.

They assert that Inca was founded in the time of the Romans; and ruins are found in the vicinity, which leave no doubt of its antiquity.

Sansellas is also said to be one of the parts of the island which was first inhabited: the situation of this village is not less picturesque than that of Selva.

The canton of Beninsalem is one of the richest of the island in wines; the quality of which is in much esteem. The village is also well built and handsome; the houses are convenient, and kept with great neatness. In the neighbourhood of Beninsalem there is a quarry of red marble, with which the inhabitants have beautified their church. This edifice is one of the finest in the island.

It is but a short distance from Sansellas to Sineu: this village existed in the time of the Romans. Under the kings of Majorca, it was one of the most flourishing in the island. These princes had at this place a castle, where they resided several months in the year. The population of Sineu does not exceed 4000 persons; the produce consists of corn, wine, and vegetables; the inhabitants have also some flocks, but they are not very numerous.

Sainte-Marie is a small village not far from Sineu; it has but 2000 inhabitants. The lands produce a small quantity of corn, fruit, almonds, and wine; but the oils are the principal article.

In the road to Alcudia, from St. Marie, we pass very near a large morass, called the Abufera, situated near the sea shore. This pond, the property of a noble of Palma, is the chief wealth of the canton: it abounds with aquatic fowl, and in its waters they catch a considerable quantity of fish, particularly eels, of an enormous size. Unfortunately these advantages do not make amends for the unwholesome exhalations which infect the air, and occasion distempers very difficult to cure.

This part of the island is deserted, and great part of the land uncultivated. The Abufera is thought to be the chief cause of the depopulation of the town of Alcudia, which is in its vicinity. I do not think the draining of this pond would be attended with any great difficulty, or require any very considerable expenditure: the waters might easily be made to pass into the sea; and, once dried up, this place might be used for

the purposes of agriculture, and its extent is large enough to compensate by its produce the loss of the fishery. At any rate, it would be very easy to lessen the malignity of the waters of this morass, by clearing away the filth. The weeds, which stagnate, added to the bad quality of the mud and slime, occasion unwholesome qualities.

At the distance of something more than two miles from the Abufera, on the side of a hill, is the town of Alcudia, between two large bays, which can receive ships of any burthen. Alcudia is said to be the part of the island which was first inhabited: the situation of this town, at two miles from the sea, may be considered as a proof of this assertion. In those early ages, the art of fortification was but little known; they only had an enclosure of walls, flanked with a few towers. Their chief strength was in the situation; thus they prefered mountainous places, and such as were difficult of access from the sea; they therefore settled some distance from the shore. These precautions were sufficient protection from a *coup-de-main*. Alcudia has always acted a principal part in the events which compose the history of Majorca. This city has for a long time disputed with Palma the title of the capital of the the island. Alcudia was in the reign of Jayme the Second, in 1300, in a very flourishing state: in 1523, the emperor Charles the Fifth rewarded its citizens for their zeal by the title of *Most Faithful*. Alcudia at present appears to be only a poor place, with most of the houses falling into ruins. The ancient wall yet remains, but would not be any defence. This city is the residence of a invalid colonel, who has the government of it; the garrison consists of about thirty foot soldiers; a piquet of cavalry does the ordinary duty; conveys the reports to the captain general, and the orders he sends in answer.

There is not any spring of water in the neighbourhood of Alcudia; and the inhabitants, whose number is now reduced to about 800, are supplied only from cisterns. The culture of the lands is in a languishing state, and the produce is confined to a little corn, with some fruits and vegetables. The sheep produce a very fine wool.

There is, on the declivity of a small hill, towards the isthmus which divides the two bays, a chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Victory. Near this place, from the top of a steep rock, one may see the prospect of all the eastern coast of the island of Minorca, and most part of Majorca; on this rock is a signal tower. A little lower, and almost on the sea shore, is another pointed rock; on the summit is a piece of artillery: this rock is of a curious shape: it is called *la Roca*.

Leaving this territory, which is equally barren and unwholesome, and going to the W. N. W. we are made amends by the sight of the village Pollenza : it is situated a short league from the sea, in a plain sheltered to the north by lofty hills ; the soil is fruitful and well watered. The foundation of Pollenza is dated as far back as the time of the Romans : this village, which is the largest and one of the handsomest in the island, contains near 6000 inhabitants. It produces chiefly oils and wool : the wine of Polenza, called Montona, is in great esteem. The houses, though not grand, have every requisite convenience, and denote the opulence of the people who inhabit them. The parish church is built in a good stile of architecture, although simple. The Dominicans have here a tolerably handsome convent. The most remarkable edifice is the church, which was built by the Jesuits two years before their expulsion ; it is thought to be one of the handsomest in the the island ; the convent has not been finished. It would make a college for the education of youth. There is also at Pollenza, a military hospital for the troops which are stationed in this part of the island. Near the village is a little solitary eminence, on the top of which is a chapel dedicated to the Holy Virgin ; there was also a convent of nuns, which has been demolished. In the southern part are the ruins of an old castle, called the Castle of Pollenza. If curiosity lead any stranger thither, he must expect to endure the tedious recital of the prodigies of valour performed by the Majorcans in defending this fort against the Moors.

Following the chain of mountains which protects the island from the winds of the north, we descend into a valley where there is a large collegiate church, called *Lluch*. Pope Alexander granted to its chapter the title of Canons of St. Peter. The ecclesiastics, and the other inhabitants of this collegiate, are reckoned at about 400 persons. Its wealth consists of oils and flocks. The hills which surround the valley are covered with trees, and have many good springs of water. The church, consecrated to *Notre-Dame de Lluch*, is very handsome. I observed some very beautiful marble pillars, which support the roof ; the interior is lined with black marble, and adorned with ornaments of jasper, which the island produces. There is at Lluch an image of the Holy Virgin, which is held in great veneration, and which they assure us was found in 1238, on the spot where the church is built. This image, like many others, has the gift of working miracles. It attracts many devotees, who never fail to bring the customary offerings.

Passing over the mountains which surround the valley of Notre-Dame de Lluch, and going to the south, we see the

villages Alaro and Saint-Martial; but they contain nothing that can interest the curiosity of the traveller. The population of Alaro may be about 2400 persons; its produce consists of oil, caroubs, and silk, and it maintains some flocks of small cattle: there are here several springs, which serve to put in motion the mills adjacent. Saint-Martial is only a hamlet, inhabited by about 500 people; the produce is various, and consists of oil, grain, almonds, wine, and figs; they have also some flocks and herds, and there is a manufactory of earthen ware.

To the north of Saint-Martial is Bugnola, a village founded as far back as the epoch of the conquest of the island by king Jayme the First: it may contain about 2600 persons. A few flocks of sheep, caroubs, but above all the oil, compose the riches of this place; there is also some wood proper for building.

When travellers arrive as far as the foot of the mountains of Eufabia, it is customary to stop at a house, which, according to the tradition of the country, stands on the spot where was formerly a pleasure seat that belonged to the Moorish kings. The gardener is very attentive to travellers, shewing them every thing worthy observation, particularly the different fountains which play in various fanciful representations. The Majorcans are fond of these bagatelles. What surprised me most, is the want of taste of the proprietor of this spot, which by its situation, and the springs of water which abound there, might be easily made a most delightful residence.

We have to pass over some very lofty mountains in our way from Eufabia to Soler; we go this road with mules; but the road is wide, and the declivity not being very steep, might be easily made proper for carriages. This short road is exceedingly delightful; the various prospects seen from the mountains charm the eye in every direction. On our descent we enter the valley of Soler. It is three leagues and a half in circumference, and forms a kind of bason, surrounded by mountains, which are covered with clumps of olive trees.

The whole plain is planted with orange and lemon trees, and watered by numerous rivulets, which unite together in one stream near the village, which it crosses, and runs into the sea at the port of Palm. The valley of Soler, seen from the top of the mountains, presents the spectacle of a forest of trees always green. The fecundity of the soil in this part of the island, is astonishing; the smallest garden produces an abundance that is almost incredible. The inhabitants amount to about 5000 in number; their wealth consists of oil, caroubs, and silk; but above all, a prodigious quantity of oranges and lemons of a very

superior quality: these last are the most considerable articles of the commerce of the Majorcans with Languedoc and Roussillon, which now make the departments of Herault and the eastern Pyrenees. The village of Soler is well built, and is one of the handsomest in the island; but, nevertheless, it has nothing particularly worthy of attention. The first subject with which the Majorcans entertain a stranger on his arrival, is the valley of Soler; of which they speak with so much pleasure, and with such particular emphasis, that it rouses the curiosity of the traveller, who is pressed to go and enjoy the wonders of which he has just heard the description, and certainly this place has every beauty that art, added to the bounties of nature, can present; in short, the whole valley consists of the most enchanting gardens. We return, after having admired the richness of the soil, and the delightful scenery, with considerable regret, that the inhabitants have not better profited by its luxuriances.

Two leagues distant from Soler to the N. ¼ N. E. is the village Valdemusa, situated on the declivity of a hill: this little mountain joins to several others, which surround a deep valley in the shape of a tunnel; all these hills are covered with fruit trees, from which is derived the principal wealth of the inhabitants.

Valdemusa is ill built; the streets are very inconvenient, from their extreme declivity, and the badness of the pavement, which is composed of rough flints.

The population of this village amounts to above 1200. Besides a considerable quantity of fruit and vegetables, the lands produce a small quantity of oil, some caroubs, and some silk; they have also some flocks of sheep and goats. Valdemusa is celebrated for being the birth-place of the fortunate Catharine Tomasa, who is remembered with such veneration throughout the island.

To the north of this village, is a convent of Chartreux. I visited this monastery, which contains about fifty monks; it is very large: the handsomest part is the new cloister, but there is only one side of it finished. Each monk has a small apartment, consisting of three parts, and a garden, which he cultivates for his amusement. Every necessary of food and raiment is found in this convent: the lands which surround it produce corn, wine, oil, fruit, and vegetables; and, in the interior, they manufacture the stuffs with which the monks are clothed. This monastery (like all those of the same order) is very rich: the monks are very charitable to the poor families in Valdemusa. Strangers may stay in this Chartreux three days, where they are lodged and treated with much attention. There is, near the body of the house, which is inhabited by the monks, a building, where-

in are kept all the comforts and conveniences necessary to hospitality.

About a league from Valdemusa, among the mountains, are several small chapels, the duty of which is done by hermits, who live separately and retired in huts, which they build themselves. These recluse men live on alms; they are frequently visited by the devotees of the island, by whom they are greatly respected. This place is called the Hermitage of Sainte-Marie, and the recluse exercise a kind of jurisdiction over all other hermits in the different parts of the island; they are clothed almost like the Capuchins; and are said to live very austerely.

Going along the north coast to the west, we come to the village Bagnafura, which is situated on a mountain, of which the part that looks to the sea forms a very steep declivity to the beach. From the summit to the foot this mountain is cut in stairs; each of the steps are supported by little walls made of dry stones. It is planted all over with vines, which, from the sea, have a beautiful appearance. At the time of the vintage, this mountain, covered with the peasantry of both sexes, presents a most animated picture. The population of Bagnabufar does not exceed 5 or 600 persons; the inhabitants are mostly in good circumstances, and live in great comfort: they have plenty of oil and fruit; but their chief wealth consists of wines of different qualities, which are much esteemed in the island. The mountains abound with springs of water, used by the peasants to wash and bleach their linen.

A little more to the west is a hamlet called Estellens. Turning from thence to the S. S. W. at the distance of about three leagues, is Andraig, a well-built village, containing about 4000 people. The inhabitants practise navigation, and thus make up for the poverty of their canton, which only produces oil. This is the most infertile part of the island. Andraig is not much more than a league distant from the sea shore. The harbour is only proper for small craft: it is very safe, and runs in shore near two miles. The road from the village to the port is tiresome, uneven, and full of loose stones.

Among the northern mountains, about four or five leagues from Palma, is the source of a kind of river, called la Rierra: it is almost dry during great part of the year; but in the rainy season it becomes very full, and extremely rapid, and often does considerable damage. La Rierra empties itself into the sea, under the ramparts of the city of Palma. In the year 1403, the water increased so rapidly, that 1600 houses were carried away, and 5500 people were drowned. In 1408, its ravages were renewed. The years 1444, 1618, and 1635, were also marked

by similar disasters; the waters overflowed and inundated all the country, and even in the city, they rose to the height of four feet, running into the sea, by the mole of the port.

Not far from the source of this river, is a village called Puigpugnent; it is situated in a large valley, covered with olive and other fruit trees. The produce of this orchard, joined to that of some flocks of cattle, and a small quantity of silk, make the wealth of the inhabitants, whose numbers may be about 1200. The houses of Puigpugnent are separate, and situated a good space one from the other.

A short distance from this village on the road to Palma, is another, called Calvia; the number of inhabitants is from 12 to 1300; the situation is hilly, and fruitful in oil, grain, and caroubs. The people of this canton are chiefly shepherds, and the flocks make their principal revenue. Calvia is near the small port of Paqura, where the king don Jayme the conqueror, landed in the year 1229. Don Alphonso, and don Pedro, also made choice of this place to land their troops.

Near to Calvia, on the sea shore is Deya, a village of little note, containing about 500 inhabitants, who like those of Calvia, employ themselves in feeding their flocks and swine; these animals rove at liberty in the underwoods which covers the canton. They have likewise some small quantity of oil.

The roads in the interior of the island are in a bad state, from not being kept in repair; this negligence is a sensible prejudice to the progress of agriculture, and to the activity of commerce, every article to be conveyed to the sea shore, must be carried on the back of a mule, or on carts of a clumsy workmanship, and which can travel but slowly.

The whole population of Majorca, amounts to about 136,000 inhabitants. Palma, the capital, contains 33,000. Of these, 136,000, they reckon 52,000 women, and 27,000 children; of the 33,000 inhabitants of the capital, 14,000 are women, and 5,108 children; deducting from the total of the population of the island, the women and children, there remains 57,000 inhabitants. In this calculation the aged and infirm are not reckoned, the number of whom is said to be 14,250; 42,750, is the number of those of age and strength sufficient for the culture of the lands, the navigation and defence of the island. This number of effective men, is still reduced by the ecclesiastics, who amount to 2,055, 1002 of whom are monks. Thus Majorca, has but 40,695 men capable of labour. From the number of 52,000 women, must be deducted 1,204, of whom 600 are nuns, and of course devoted to celibacy; and 604 also devoted to celibacy, but voluntarily dedi-

cating themselves to an honourable and useful service in the different charitable establishments.

Might there not be added to the number of these women who do not encrease the population, those who giving way to their passions, are at once lost to society by idleness, which is always dangerous, and by that sterility, which is a consequence, or rather punishment of debauchery. In a climate such as Majorca, and under a government where the sex is almost authorized in its deviations, by an indulgence carried much too far, to what number would the calculation amount? The mind refuses to enter into such humiliating and painful investigations. For my part, I had rather turn my thoughts to those happier times, when Majorca was not yet subjected to a licentious depravity, so fatal to population, and to the good of society. The Majorcans have not always been incapable of conquering their passions, or of resisting the power of avarice. It is in the city, the abode of the greatest number of foreigners, that this shameful libertinism, mostly prevails. In the country in general, the females are virtuous, modest, and of pure morals.

CHAPTER II.

CLIMATE—QUALITIES OF THE SOIL—CULTURE AND THE PRODUCTIONS OF THE LANDS.

THE climate of Majorca is temperate, and the mountains which surround the island, protect it from the north winds; nevertheless they are some time visited by one of these, which descending from the mountains occasions a cold atmosphere in the plain, and at times does considerable damage; tearing up by the roots, and carrying away great part of the olive trees, with which the hills are covered. In the summer the sea breezes allay the extreme heat. The climate of Majorca varies with the different situations. In the month of August the inhabitant of the mountain feels not the inconvenience of the excessive heat of other regions; the islander who lives on the eastern borders, on the contrary experiences but little of the cold during the winter. The intermediate valleys do not owe their temperature to the coolness of the streams, for there are none in the island, but to the vicinity of the mountains, the chain of which extends to the East, the North and to the West,

and even stretches into the interior of the lands. Some of these mountains are very lofty: such as those of Pug-major, and Galatzo, on whose summits the air is often pure and serene, when at the same time the rest of the island is covered with clouds. The air passing through the kind of canals which are formed by these mountains, becomes rarified, and is cooled by the light winds, which carry it to the inhabitants of the valleys. The natural productions of the island are perfect thermometers, that tell the qualities of the climate, and which never deceive; let us extend our observations over the whole island of Majorca, we shall see it adorned with woods of odoriferous orange trees, the fruits of which are every where esteemed, and are not inferior to those of Malta and Portugal, and which have obtained it the title of the golden island. Here the eye beholds lofy palm-trees: there the caroub tree, which bids defiance to the severity of the winter, and presents from the beginning of August, a fruit ripened to perfection. Towards the end of June, the vine is loaded with clustres of grapes of exquisite sweetness and flavor; the finest cotton is here produced, as also the plantain, that wonderful production of nature, whose fruit feeds the poor Indian, whose bark furnishes him with domestic utensils, both convenient and elegant, with the leaves of which he covers his humble habitation, and which protects him from the heat of the sun. The plantain, which is found in many gardens at Palma, is the same described by Salmon in his History of the World, written in Italian, and Father Gumilla's History of Orooonoka.

It is true the Majorcans do not possess the fruit of the plantain, but this tree growing naturally in the island, is no small proof of the excellence of the climate. It is from the temperature of the Baleares, that Strabo named them the fortunate islands.

In the northern part of the island of Majorca, the whole of the coast is lined with high and inaccessible rocks. To the East and South it spreads into plains, and has numerous ports and anchorages. Thus the island may be divided into two parts: the plains and the mountains. On the last, the soil is of a reddish colour, and mixed with stones, nevertheless it is very fertile. All these mountains are covered with trees from the top to the bottom; some of them are proper for building. The wild olive-trees are very hardy and numerous; the islander profits as much as he can by this bounty of nature; he grafts, cultivates, and indeed uses all care and attention, to preserve these valuable trees. To prevent their being torn up by the roots, and carried away by the torrents, which at times precipitate from the

mountains, he protects each tree with a little wall of dry stone, which supports the lands and leaves the water a free course; all these little ramparts have a passage between them for the purpose, sufficiently wide; we may reckon more than thirty of these walls, one above another, forming a kind of amphitheatre, which has a very pretty effect, and gives at the same time an idea of the labour, industry and patience of the cultivator.

In the chain of mountains of Majorca, may be distinguished those of Torella and Galatzo, entirely covered with trees, chiefly olives and green oaks; among these last are some of an astonishing size; there are also many others fit for carpenter's work, and firs which serve for the building of small vessels.

At the time of the last expedition of the Spaniards against Algiers, they had from hence, wood, to build thirty seven bombs and armed vessels.

The soil of the plains is not so fertile as that of the mountains; in many places it is very much sunk, so that in the times of abundant rains, the water lays on the ground till the seed perishes; even in favourable seasons the crops are always weak in these cantons of the island, but many parts of the plain seem to be very proper for meadows, or grazing lands. There is here found in abundance a kind of jonquil, of which the large cattle are very fond, and particularly the horses; there are also great quantities of angelica and wild celery; these two plants so much sought after, and which produce so much in other places, were here, a few years back, of no value, the islanders neglected or did not know the means of making their cultivation an advantage; a Frenchman has profited by their carelessness or ignorance.

The island is watered only by the springs which comes from the midst of the mountains; but at those seasons when the snow melts which covered the summits of the mountains, and when the rains are heavy and of long duration, these streams run down in torrents, attended with danger, more than equal to the utility.

Majorca has many deep holes in the earth, dry pits hollowed by nature, which assisting the explosion of the inflammable air, contribute to prevent earthquakes; in fact there is here no remembrance of any such event.

Within these few years, there has been discovered in several places, a vein of pit-coal; some individuals united in the intention of undertaking the work. But the labour presented such a prospect of expence, greatly above the means of the society, that

it was given up ; in fact it could never succeed without the assistance and protection of the government.

It has been said by some, that veins have been found, indicative of mines of gold and silver, and that minium, or red lead of a superior quality, had been discovered, as also mercury. These reports, however, are not believed, and the number of the islanders who appear to give them any credit, is confined to a few old men, who are fond of wonderful stories.

I was also assured, that in the mountains of Majorca, there were found granite, garnets, agate, jasper, and porphyry; but I saw none of them, and I believe these discoveries may be ranked with those of the gold and silver mines.

I saw at the convent of the capuchins, a very large window, the only one which there was in the choir, composed of panes of a kind of transparent stone, which the friars told me was brought from Bagnabufar ; but I know that it came from Valencia.

At Andraig, Puigpugnent, Bagnabufar, and Bugnola, is found marble, that is speckled with red and white.

At Alaro is extracted a kind of marble, which they call *amandrado*, from the form of the shades, which resemble almonds ; it is black and white. Although it is common; it is much valued.

The islanders make use of these marbles in the decoration of the churches, and the gates of the houses belonging to the rich.

Beninsalem furnishes flat square stones, with which the churches and houses are paved.

From Bagnabufar, is brought free stone ; from Arta and Manacor, mill stones ; at Estellences is often found stones with a very sharp edge.

The sandy stone which is used for building, is common at Lluch-Major, and at Santaqui ; it is proper for fortifications, as it is not liable to crack. It is of this that the ramparts at Palma are built.

In many parts of the island slate is found, but the islanders make no use of it.

At Arta and Estellenchs, are some grottos, where the variety of the stalactites amuse and interest the observer with the sportiveness of nature.

Fire-stone is very common in the island of Majorca, and almost every where there is plenty of a sort of white lime, or plaster, which is much in esteem.

In general the stony part of the mountains is composed of

mixed stones, formed of chalky, vitrifiable, and refractory parts.

In the vicinity of Campos, are situated some salt-pits, which they do not make so profitable as they might.

If they were attended to with more care, and some money were expended in the work, they would not only be sufficient for the consumption in the island, but that there would be a considerable overplus for exportation.

There is no doubt but that the island of Majorca presents a large field for the researches of the botanist. It affords simples, and plants of every kind; and probably there might be discovered among them some new ones, or such as are scarce in other places, or at least but little known. I distinguished the *Hypericon Balearicum*, a kind of myrtle, of which the islanders make but little use. The socotorine aloe of Majorca is much esteemed, and the angelica and hemlock are much finer than in any other place.

As for the mineral waters, I only saw one spring, near Campos, it is called the fountain of St. John; the water appears to me to be strongly impregnated with sulphur; it is warm, and the inhabitants use it for curing cutaneous distempers.

There are very few venomous reptiles in the island of Majorca.

There is nothing particular in the birds and quadrupeds, nor did I observe any thing remarkable in the different kinds of fish.

The island of Majorca, is, without contradiction, one of those most favoured by nature, being so advantageously situated between Europe and Africa, the temperature of the climate, and the quality of the soil, insure to the inhabitants the blessings of abundance; nevertheless agriculture is far from that degree of perfection, attained to in other countries. One is at first struck with their imperfect manner of culture, but the astonishment ceases, on calculating the population and extent of the surface of the island, and on observing the manner in which the lands are divided and managed. I have followed the husbandman in his labours with an attentive eye, and observed his customs and prejudices.

In an account given to the supreme council of finances at Madrid, the surface of the island of Majorca is estimated to be 1234 square miles. The whole population is but 136,000 souls, nevertheless the produce of corn is insufficient, and there is some imported, at least 50,000 fanques every year. The fanque is a Spanish measure, containing twenty-five pounds, of sixteen ounces to the pound.

This deficiency in the article of corn, far from diminishing,

seems to increase progressively. There is no doubt but that the lands which are situated at the foot of the mountains, or in the vicinity of torrents, must lose much of their salt and vegetable succulency, and experience a sensible deterioration, from the effect of the abundant rains, and the inundations of the torrents. To these physical causes, may be added those which arise from the want of information, means, and activity of the husbandman.

In the district dependant on Palma, the capital, are some fields or rather muddy lands, which are entirely uncultivated. There are also other lands of the same kind, and in the same neglected state, in the districts of Andraig, Calvia, Campos, Santagni, Petra, Muro, Peubla, Alcudia, and Pollenza: the natural fertility of the soil, nevertheless promises to reward the labours of the industrious husbandman; the little which has been sown has produced in a ratio of forty to one. What a resource for the islander, and with what ease might he free himself from the tax, which he annually pays to the states of Barbary, to make up the deficiency of corn.

This hope is not founded on a false calculation; its possibility may be known, by casting the eyes around on other portions of land in the neighbourhood of Arta and Manacor, which are proper for the cultivation of corn, and which are nevertheless almost entirely neglected, and where, at least for two years successively, no labour has been done.

The draining of the inundated lands is easy, and shews itself to be so, by the tendency of the waters to the sea, and their vicinity to the beach.

The Majorcan farmer is uninformed, or at most knows but little of the improvements in agriculture practised by strangers. His instruments of tillage are defective; the plough without wheels, is only composed of a long piece of wood, at the bottom of which is fixed the share, and at the other extremity is placed the heavy yoke; they commonly make use of mules, and even asses are employed to draw the plough. These animals are put to, in the same manner as oxen, which are also used in some parts of the island; the yoke rests on the shoulders. This method of putting to the cattle, takes away from their strength; the labourer is obliged alternatively to raise and push down the ploughshare; the furrows are consequently of little depth, and the land seems rather raked than ploughed.

To manure the lands, the Majorcans make use of the dung of the cattle, and the dirt of the streets, but they have not a sufficient quantity, considering the extent of the soil; sometimes there are pieces of land barren for want of dunging. They also make use

of sea-weed, mixed with marl; but this is only in those districts that are near the sea-shore. Many of the peasants believe that when the rains are very heavy, just after the sowing season, the grain rots in the earth; but this cannot be, except in those low lands, where the water remains a length of time. According to this idea, they sow the land afresh, and the first sowing, beginning to sprout, is choaked as it were, and weakened by the second seed; the consequence is, that the blade is weak, and the ear not filled. The Majorcan neglects, or is little informed of the means of destroying the worms which eat the seed, or of preserving the corn from distemper.

The culture of maize, or of Turkey corn, is very little thought of; it would be of great advantage, when there was a want of other grain.

For a number of years, the islanders have made it their chief care, to encrease the number of their fruit trees. This part of rival economy might be carried still farther, without infringing on the lands proper for corn. It is thought that near a twentieth part of the surface of the island might yet be planted. Above all, the mulberry trees come to great perfection; the produce of silk is considerably increased, and, besides the consumption of the islanders, furnishes a new article for commerce and exportation. The culture of the mulberry trees is encouraged by the government, which has exempted the silks from every duty in going out of the island. Nevertheless this favour does not seem to induce the Majorcans to make new plantations; numbers of them are persuaded, that the climate is not favorable to the propagation of silk-worms; it would be easy to convince them, that this opinion is erroneous.

As for me, I think their indifference for this interesting branch of industry, is only the result of their ignorance of the culture of the mulberry tree, and of the necessary care of the silk worms.

The almond is, doubtless, one of the most useful trees to the Majorcans; the leaves serve to feed the cattle; the green bark burnt, is excellent for the manufacture of soap; the dried bark is used for fuel. The ashes of the green bark are calculated at 8 p. $\frac{0}{0}$ of the value of the almond itself. They also obtain from the almond tree, some small quantity of gum, which is sent to Barcelona. The number of these trees is considerable, and encreases greatly; it is thought they might still be increased one-third.

The fig-tree seems to be indigenous to the island; the climate is very favourable, and it grows every where, almost without any trouble; the fruit is a chief article of food to those islanders,

who are poor. The crop of figs amounts annually to 12,000 quintals, and this quantity might certainly be tripled; the culture and increase of the fig-tree is encouraged by the exemption of all duties on dried figs.

The quintal, or hundred weight, is estimated to be worth a piaster; thus, they would have a nett profit of 24,000 piasters, a sum that would partly pay for the foreign corn that is imported.

The number of those trees, which supply wood for the works of the joiner, such as poplars, walnut-trees, cherry-trees, &c. decrease insensibly. Their number might be encreased with the greatest facility, by making plantations of them, in the numerous marshy places. The cantons of Soller and Esporlas would be very proper for encreasing the number of these trees.

Orange and lemon-trees seem to be sufficiently cultivated, though they might be brought to a greater degree of perfection.

The vine is also cultivated with care; but it is nevertheless true, that the Majorcans might much encrease the produce by planting divers fallow grounds, that are only fit for the vine.

The olive-trees, occupy at least one-third of the land of the island; although the culture of them is carefully attended to, yet there are means of melioration, which the islanders neglect, or are ignorant of; many of them do not know the proper time or manner of pruning; thus the extraneous branches absorb a part of the vegetable succulence, and impoverish the tree. Neither has the peasant the precaution of profiting by the rain, to form reservoirs to supply water for the olive trees; and however experience may prove, that the more these trees are watered, the more fruit they produce, yet in this particular they are indebted to nature only.

The caper-trees furnish the Majorcans with an article of consumption and exportation; it comes to perfection in the most sterile places; it takes root even on the walls, and it requires scarcely any other care, than to protect it from the rigour of the season in the winter.

Of fruits and vegetables there is abundance, but little variety; most of those cultivated in France, would succeed perfectly at Majorca.

I have sometimes eaten excellent Bêurre pears, Doyenne pears, apples, and other fruits; the plants of which had been brought from France for a rich Majorcan, and which he cultivated for his own use. I have seen some emigrant Frenchmen, who live here very comfortably, on the produce of a small garden, where

they cultivate only such plants as are little known in the island.

To carry agriculture to the degree of perfection, of which it is capable in this island, the encouragement and assistance of the sovereign is necessary; for example, the draining of land, drowned by the stagnant waters, is an undertaking greatly above the means of an individual, who could never bear the expence of the work, or the purchase of the necessary machines.

The want of carriage roads, in a country where there are no navigable rivers to convey the commodities, is without contradiction, one of the great obstacles to the progress of agriculture. Every thing from the interior of the island is carried on the backs of mules, or on carts of a very clumsy make; these carts are composed of a kind of floor with a heavy beam, to which is fixed an ill-shaped axle tree; to this are fastened two flat wheels, formed of several pieces of wood, bound together with an iron hoop, which is also studded with the clumsy heads of large square nails. The axle tree turns, but the wheels are fixed: in the front of the cart, the beam forms a triangular space, where the driver places himself: he can add at pleasure, two boards to the sides of the cart; the mules are fastened by the neck to an enormous yoke, very heavy, and as big as the cart. This yoke is tied with a large rope to the beam, which for this purpose has at the end two iron hooks above, and two strong pegs or pins underneath; the rope is crossed between these points of support and stay. These heavy carts move with difficulty, and of course go slowly; their motion is attended with a deafening disagreeable noise. The mules are so fastened, that they cannot exert all their strength, and are soon tired; the driver is often obliged to place himself between the two mules to assist them, leading them by the bridle. When we behold these singular carriages, we cannot help thinking of the early ages of civilization. The coaches are likewise of a make which may serve as an epoch in the history of the Majorcans.

These defects are the consequences of the bad condition of the roads; a more convenient and lighter cart would be destroyed in ways so rough and full of stones and holes; for though the Majorcan cart cannot carry any great weight, and travels slowly, yet it has the advantage of being very strong, and never overturns. The driver on the way often sleeps, without any care, as he is sure of the mules, who are so fastened, that they cannot wander from the road, as is often the case with our shaft horses.

The disproportion of the population to the extent of the soil, is another cause of the languishing state of agriculture. I have

endeavoured to give the most exact calculations of that of Majorca; and comparing the number of individuals who may be employed in the cultivation of the lands, with the surface of the island, the disproportion is soon acknowledged. Many of the lands remain fallow for want of hands. The truth of this is sensibly felt about Alcudia, the second city of the island.

It is generally said that the cause of the depopulation of this canton, is the distemper occasioned by the air, which the exhalations from the Abufera render so very unwholesome. The Abufera seems to have formerly been a small sea-port for light vessels which drew but little water. There is still to be seen in some parts of the borders of this nasty pool, some remains of ancient construction, which seem to prove the truth of the conjecture.

By degrees this port became choaked up with the different substances which the rains and waters brought with them in their course. Thus this port, neglected by the inhabitants, became only a muddy morass.

I thought I perceived, in the situation of the actual state of the city of Alcudia, the true cause, or at least the chief cause, of its depopulation. Alcudia is built on the declivity of a mountain, two miles from the sea-shore; in this situation it has neither springs nor fountains; the inhabitants therefore must drink the water from their cisterns: the water becomes corrupted in most of these reservoirs for want of being kept clean, not so much from negligence as the want of hands. Every house has cellars more or less deep and wide; these places underground in the time of great rains are subject to be filled with water through those air holes which are open even with the edge of the soil; the accumulated waters in these cellars insensibly undermine the foundations and often occasion the houses to fall down in a moment's time.

These cellars must inevitably emit unwholesome exhalations; and these inconveniences, added to the bad quality of the water, which is drunk by the inhabitants of Alcudia, with food that is not very good, appears to me to be the true cause of the distempers, which are attributed to the Abufera.

I remarked that the inhabitants of the country about Alcudia, even in the vicinity of the Abufera, were very healthy, while those of the city shewed every symptom of ill health, languor, and despondency. On entering this unfortunate place, we appear to be transported to the abodes of the dead: the houses present the spectacle of a mass of tombs, and the citizens look like spectres. There are not more than seven or eight hundred

persons in Alcudia, and yet this city must have had a very numerous population, at least if we may judge by the part it has acted, in the course of the events which form the history of the island; and the Abufera, so pernicious at present, existed at the time of those events.

The situation of Alcudia between the two finest and best anchorages of the island, is so advantageous for commerce and navigation, that it naturally creates the desire to profit by it, by endeavouring to encrease the population of this unhappy canton. They have therefore held out the inducements of a small sum of money, a certain portion of land, and some of the uninhabited houses, to whoever would go and settle at Alcudia; they deceived themselves by these measures, for it was evident that no islander would leave the canton where he lived in comfort, to go to another where his best hope would be to vegetate a long time before he could reap the fruits of his labour. These encouragements then could only be applicable to strangers, and few of those could be found in an island, where they are generally seldom more than birds of passage, and chiefly consist of sea-faring men, and where, as is the case throughout Spain, the intolerance of religion is a constant check to the industry of foreigners. The surest method would have been to have entirely abandoned the city of Alcudia, and to have rebuilt it in a situation nearer the point of the isthmus which separates the two bays. One of the most efficacious methods to attract thither new inhabitants, husbandmen, and consequently the collateral circumstances which produce wealth to this part of the island, would probably be to grant, at least for a certain number of years, an exemption from duties on all merchandize entering or going out of the bay of Alcudia.

If the hindrance to the progress of agriculture be an inevitable consequences of a deficiency of population, the manner in which this population is distributed and employed, appears to me to be a cause no less fatal; in calculating the total number of the inhabitants of the island, I make the deduction of those individuals who are lost to the cultivation of the lands, and to the encrease of population. To the brood of monks, nuns, and priests, spread over the town and country, there must yet be added a considerable number of young healthy people, who fill the seminaries and cloisters; some aspiring to a benefice, which would give them the means of living in sloth, and others mistaking their indolence, and aversion to labour, for a divine inspiration. To this class I have yet to add another who are equally lost, not to population, but to the labours of agriculture.

This is composed of a number of idle fellows dispersed in the houses of the rich, whose whole employ is to display (by wearing a shabby livery) not so much the opulence as the vanity of their patrons.

The unequal division of the lands is another error, destructive to agriculture. It necessarily occasions a bad rural administration; a single family, and often a single individual, is in possession of lands of very considerable extent. These lands, however large, are not cultivated so as to make them of a proper value, even to the proprietors themselves; they live retired in the city, and the former manage their estates. These last have only their personal interest to direct them in their labours; they therefore endeavour to profit by the limited time of their lease; and their care is to draw from the land a produce above its natural fertility: exhausting the strength of the soil does not concern them, but the consequence is, that these lands remain a long time afterwards without produce. Thus we see that in great proprietorships, there is always considerable parcels of land which remain fallow; however, some proprietors have seen the inconveniences of this ill judged management, and have divided their large possessions in portions, which they have sold for life to divers husbandmen. And these men, thus become proprietors, have given their whole care to the melioration of the soil, which enables them at their deaths, to leave to their children the means of supplying their places, by new purchases.

The population in these cantons is increased in proportion to the comforts enjoyed by the inhabitants who cultivate the land.

I have it in my power to give a very striking example of this truth. The land of Saria was a few years ago entirely in the hands of one family. It was afterwards divided into small portions; and at this time one of these portions, which are called establishments, contains eight hundred inhabitants. The lands which had been in an uncultivated state until the time of this division, produced abundantly. The land of Santa-Ponca, which remained in the hands of a single proprietor, produces but little, and for the most part appears like an uncultivated desert.

To obtain from the culture of the lands all the advantages which might be expected, it is necessary to enlighten the mind of the husbandman, to make him sensible of the defects of his management, to combat and conquer his ancient habits, and to subdue his prejudices, by setting before his eyes, the reiterated proofs the utility and superiority of other methods of managing the soil. It is to the conviction of this fact, that we are indebt-

ed, for the establishments of societies of economy and agriculture, in most of the cities of Spain, whose aim is to meliorate the culture of the lands, and assist the progress of the arts, and of commerce. Majorca has a society of this kind under the name of *friends of the country*. But often the means of improvement are wanting: they find themselves at a stand in designs of great utility, and to plans of less importance they do not give much attention.

The chief produce of the island of Majorca, consists of wheat, barley, oats, almonds, figs, oranges, vegetables, oil, wines and brandies.

The wheat harvest yearly amounts to 507,228 fanéques. The barley harvest amounts to 178,279, and that of oats to 121,766.

The quantity of wheat and barley is insufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants; they import from Barbary to make up the deficiency.

The oats produce a sufficient quantity for the consumption of the island.

The Majorcans gather near 107,414 fanéques of vegetables of every kind. The beans alone, although the chief article of food to the inhabitants of the country places, gives a surplus of about 12,000 fanéques, which are sent to Barcelona.

The produce of oil is calculated to be 2,081,969 arrobes, of which 100,000 are exported. The arrobe is a liquid measure of twenty-five pounds.

The number of oranges and lemons is reckoned to be 24,000 weight, 14,000 of which are sent to France and other places on the continent.

The almonds give 21,944 fanéques; 11,400 are exported.

The produce of figs is entirely consumed in the island, and amounts to 12,000 quintals; 952,747 arrobes is the quantity of wine produced; nearly 575,629 are consumed in the island.

They make about 37,400 arrobes of brandy, of which at least 15,000 are exported.

The Majorcans, besides their own consumption, export about 2,000 quintals of capers of different qualities.

The quantity of hemp may be about 6,000 quintals: of silk at most to 400. The quantity of flax does not exceed 250 quintals. These two last articles are very insufficient.

The wines of Majorca are of different qualities. The lightest are those of Felanix, Manacor, Petra, and other places in the vicinity of these villages. Those of Sansellas and Beninsalem are much in esteem: but the wines of Bagnabufar are

the most excellent, and equal the best foreign wines: for deliciousness of flavor, and for strength, the Moscatel, the Malvoisie, the Pampel-Rodat, and the Montona of Pollenza, are particularly celebrated. The surplus of the consumption of the islanders is turned into brandies of three different qualities: the first, which the Majorcans themselves drink, is flavoured with aniseed; the second and third sorts are exported.

CATTLE.

The island of Majorca maintains 6,000 horned cattle; 61,324 sheep; 33,616 goats; 25,000 swine; 2,000 horses and mares; and 9,000 beasts of burden, asses and mules.

These cattle supply food to the Majorcans, and some for the culture of the lands, the conveyance of commodities, and the manufactories of very coarse cloth, with which the inhabitants of the country are clothed; the deficiencies made in the flocks by the consumption of the inhabitants, are made up by oxen, sheep, &c. brought from Catalonia, the southern provinces of France, and the coast of Barbary; and sometimes the losses occasioned by epizootic distempers are repaired from Africa.

The oxen are in general small, lean, and weak, which proceeds rather from the want of pasturage, than from the quality of the fodder.

The mules and asses are on the contrary very strong. The maintenance of these animals requires but little care, and they are easily fed. They are smaller than those of Castile, but very gentle, and are broke-in without trouble.

None but these animals are employed as draught cattle, either in town or country. A very few days after they have left the pasture, they may be employed without inconvenience.

The horses are weak, have a miserable appearance, and are of very little service, faults which are attributed to the influence of the climate; but the bad food, and the little care that is bestowed on these animals, are more likely the real causes. They give them only straw and a little barley. The have no litter in their stables, but sleep couched on the pavement, which is always very damp; economy makes them prefer mules, which moreover bear fatigue much better.

The sheep are large; their fleece is very thick and the wool is very fine, and furnishes the islanders with about 500 quintals, per annum. The ewes and goats supply milk and cheese; they make of this last article, nearly 8000 quintals, of which, about 4500 is sent into the kingdoms of Valentia and Murcia.

The peasants are accustomed to make of the cream, a sort of white cheese called *Brosat*, which is of a very pleasant flavour. Of this cheese they easily make butter of a delicate taste, but in quantity it is so reduced that it will not furnish any for the use of the kitchen.*

Of small pieces of mutton they make a kind of pye, which they season very much with pepper, and they are careful that the paste shall be but little baked, so that it remains white after it comes out of the oven. They make at the same time a sort of little cakes, the chief ingredient of which is cheese; they have therefore given the name of *Fromegiades* to this singular sort of pastry. It is a custom in all families, whether rich or poor, to make some of these pies and cakes for the time of Easter: the day on which they proceed to this very interesting operation, is a holiday for the women who are engaged in it, who previously invite their female friends, kinsfolk, and neighbours. They assemble together in the chief rooms of the house; women, children, mistresses, and servants, range themselves without any distinction around a table of sufficient length, where they set to work, and never quit their place, till the Fromegiades are drawn out of the oven. They then divide and share them, making choice of some to present to their friends, &c. &c.

To proceed in the description of the animals, the swine are large; those they kill at the shambles generally weigh from 300 to 350 pounds. The Majorcans are very partial to this kind of meat; the fat is only used in their ragouts. There is not any family whose circumstances are easy, who do not kill a pig or two at the beginning of the year; and who do not preserve the lard and melt it for the above purpose.

They make of their pork a kind of saussages, called *Sopresades*, which are extremely high seasoned. These are seldom liked by strangers, but the Majorcans are extravagantly fond of them. They also make a kind of pye, of pieces of *putifar*, a kind of black pudding, made of the fat and blood of the pig, and peppered very much; they add to this, pieces of love-apples, and some dried grapes. The first time I tasted this species of pastry I thought I was poisoned, nevertheless it is a kind of cookery much in vogue.

The day when they kill the pig, is a similar holiday to that of the Fromegiades, and is another occasion for the Majorcan

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* We can only understand this passage, by supposing that cheese is of a peculiarly oleaginous quality. To make butter out of cheese seems an absurd anomaly; but we have literally given the expression of the author. "*De ce fromage on fait facilement un beurre d'un gout delicat*, &c." Ed.

women to invite their relations and friends. These are invited to *porchegiar*, that is to say, to assist and take part, in all the operations of the *charcuterie*; which word includes curing sausage, and black-pudding making, &c. &c.

They have plenty of poultry, but not many geese or ducks: the islanders seldom eat them.

They have small game in tolerable plenty, such as partridges, quails, woodcocks, thrushes, rabbits, and hares, &c. There are no beasts of prey except foxes, and of them but few.

Among the birds of prey the most common is the sparrow-hawk.

The Majorcans keep a great number of pigeons; there is not a house without some of them.

Fish is not plenty, the fishermen do not go far from the shore, and fish of any considerable size are very scarce.

CHAP. III.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY OF PALMA.

PALMA, the capital of the island of Majorca, is a Bishop's See, and has a Governor-general, whose military jurisdiction extends to the Baleares and Pithiusian islands. A royal audience was established in this capital in the year 1571, whose jurisdiction civil and criminal, had the same extent as that of the governor-general. Don Ferdinand the catholic founded a University at Palma, in the year 1483.

In 1697 there was formed, under the protection of the king, an economic society, composed of the persons most respected for rank and talents. Their labours embraced every object which could tend to the moral or physical good of the island.

The desire of the public welfare engaged the count de Campomanes, under the administration of the Count Florida Blanca, to solicit the court of Madrid for its protection to the above establishment in the city of Palma; and that it might be put on the same footing with those of the capital, Charles III. favoured the beneficial views of that nobleman. The new society held their first assembly on the 25th day of September in the same year; and took the title of, "*The Society of the Friends of the Country*," and for a device, a palm tree hung with trophies, composed of several implements of agriculture, navigation, and

the arts, by the side of which is placed a cornucopia, and above is a mirror reflecting the rays of the sun; in the distance is seen the city of Palma, with the following inscription, *Societate Clarior;* and around it, *Real Sociedad De Amigos, Del Pais, Del Reino, Di Mallorca.* This society annually bestow prizes on those artists, or mechanics who present any work performed with a remarkable degree of perfection, or any new invention of approved utility.

They also give rewards to those children in the principal schools, who distinguish themselves by their superior talents, or particular improvement. Palma is also the residence of an intendant, and a numerous nobility who are extremely vain of their antiquity, and tenacious of their titles and rank. It is situated on the sea-shore, and describes a semi-circle. This city is enclosed by a wall of fourteen palms in thickness, but made with a sort of white soft stone, which a cannon ball does not break or split. This wall is protected by thirteen bastions, and other fortifications of some strength; but which do not seem capable of defence for any length of time against a siege. There are eight gates to this city, two of them are on that side which is next the sea.

The port is small, and can only receive vessels that draw but little water, which moor on the north side to a narrow ill paved mote, which is about two hundred and fifty fathoms in length. It is terminated by a bastion, and a small house, where those who are appointed as guardians of health attend to receive the declarations of those captains, whose vessels arrive in this port. Near the mote is a dock where small vessels are built.

There is also another dock situated on the sea-shore, near the port Aux Pins, which they very improperly call the dock-yard.

One of the principal buildings of Palma is the palace of the governor general, where the regent of the audience, and the intendant have also their apartments. This palace is very large but built without any regularity or taste; it is composed of great halls, and small inconvenient, ill-furnished chambers. Its situation on the sea-coast, of which it commands an extensive prospect from a large balcony, makes a little amends for the melancholy appearance of the apartments.

After crossing a large court-yard we ascended a flight of stone steps to the palace. The first room is a kind of vestibule, which serves for the body guard. We then go to the right, through two large rooms, wherein there is scarcely a seat. The third is the hall of audience, in which is a throne of crimson velvet,

fringed with gold. The three steps on which the throne is raised, are covered with a carpet. At the two sides, are two lions carved in wood, and gilt; the canopy is also of crimson velvet, and the top is ornamented with panaches of ostrich feathers. Above the throne are the portraits of the king and queen: it is in this room that the governor, on court and gala days receives the compliments of the nobility, the officers of the garrison, and strangers of distinction. The rooms, contiguous to this hall, are those where the governor and his family reside; they have nothing remarkable, nor is there any thing more worthy of notice in the apartments of the intendant and of the regent of the audience. The furniture is more or less rich and elegant, according to the wealth and taste of those who inhabit the rooms.

In the body of this palace is the chapel royal, the audience-chamber, the archives, an armoury, two guard-rooms, and a barrack for one hundred and fifty horse soldiers. There are also two gardens belonging to the palace; one is for the use of the governor-general, the other for the regent of the audience; they are not either of them any thing more than kitchen gardens. Near the palace there is a large square tower very high, in which are kept the prisoners of state. They pretend that this palace was the work of the Romans; but from the form and style of its architecture, I do not think that the construction of the edifice goes back to a more remote epoch, than that when the Moors were masters of the island. It is 509 years since the princes of that nation possessed Majorca: the first time that I traversed the immense chambers of this antique castle, I could not help fancying myself cotemporary with the remotest periods of history, with the Romans, the conquerors of the Carthagenians; and here I called to mind the times when the Vandals were masters of the island in 456. I gave a few tears to the memory of the unfortunate Belisarius, who, after the conquest of the Baleares, and moreover of Africa, was overwhelmed by the injustice and ingratitude of the emperor Justinian. Nor could I help making some serious reflections on the ravages of the Moors. I quitted, however, these melancholy pictures for one which was an object of admiration, the king, don Jayme of Arragon, triumphant over the barbarians.

The cathedral is handsome, but of Gothic architecture; the dome is sustained by two rows of seven pillars each, seven palms and a half in diameter, and one hundred and fifty-six in height. The architecture of this church is bold, and does honour to the artist who undertook it, under Don Jayme, conqueror of the island. The ancient front, which corresponded with the rest of

the building, has been replaced by a wooden ornament in a bad style. The interior of the church, the grand altar, and the chapels have nothing very remarkable; the choir occupies the center of the aisle, and destroys every grace and beauty. It is composed of a quantity of masonry work, of cut stone, without the least ornament: at one corner of this heap is a pulpit, which by its form of a long square, rather resembles a rostrum. It is entirely of stone, but decorated with some sculptural designs. The throne of the bishop, and a range of stalls of walnut-tree wood, occupy the interior of the choir. In the midst is an enormous octagon reading desk, which only leaves a narrow passage on each side. Between the choir, and the grand altar is placed the tomb of king Jayme II.; it is a kind of urn of black marble, with some ornaments of copper, gilt. It is supported by four lions' feet, which do not appear to be in proportion with the grandeur of the mausoleum: above is a crown of silver. A Latin inscription transmits to posterity the epoch of the death of that monarch. This tomb is surrounded by an iron grate, of the height of three feet, and which separates it from the entrance to the choir. The most remarkable chapels are those of the crucifixion of St. Martin, and of St. Benoit, but there is only a confused heap of sculptures to be seen. The traveller, Pons, complains of having seen the same fault in several churches of the continent. The artist who constructed the baptismal font, has avoided these defects, and has only adopted in his work a noble and agreeable simplicity. It is of a fine marble, speckled red. The pictures which ornament the church deserve but little the attention of connoisseurs. The paintings *al fresco* of the chapel of Ascension, are of strong colouring, but are wanting in the design. The chapel of Piety is ornamented with twenty eight pictures of different saints, the frames of which touch each other. If this assemblage inspire veneration, we are not in a less degree disgusted with the superstition which prevails: they preserve with the greatest care, in the treasury, a piece of the real cross, three thorns of the crown of our Saviour, a part of his robe, and a part of the veil of the Virgin Mary, with one arm of St. Sebastian. They pretend that these relics were brought and deposited at Majorca in 1512, by Manual Suria, arch-deacon of Rhodes. Among the riches of the treasury are six silver candlesticks of an extraordinary size; they have each seven branches, and are of excellent workmanship; the feet are supported by satyrs, which has been sometimes a subject of ridicule against these extravagant enthusiasts.

They do not place these candlesticks at the high altar, except on the most solemn holidays.

The clergy of the cathedral consist of the bishop, six dignitaries, viz. an archdeacon, a sacristan, a dean, a chanter, an under chanter, and a treasurer, and of twenty-two canons, besides a certain number of other ecclesiastics belonging to the service of this church. The music of the cathedral consists of different instruments and voices; there is also a very fine organ.

The revenues of the bishopric are estimated at 45,000 piasters; those of the six dignitaries amount to 10,000, and 42,500 are appropriated to the prebends. Three portions of 1750 are deducted for the inquisitors; all these sums accrue partly from the rents belonging to the cathedral.

The king receives the ninth part of the tithes. The subordinate ecclesiastics are paid from a sum of 4000 piasters, to which is added the amount of the legacies left by the pious islanders to the cathedral; they have moreover their masses, and the casual advantages of their functions.

The episcopal palace is not so large as that of the governor-general, but much better disposed, and better furnished. In the first hall or apartment, are the portraits of all the prelates who have filled the see of Majorca, since the foundation of the bishopric. The second apartment is the library, which however contains but few books, and those mostly on the subject of religion. The rest of the palace presents nothing interesting; the garden is small, and is only cultivated for the use of the table.

Besides the metropolitan church, there are five parishes at Palma; ten convents for men, and eleven for women.

The number of monks and ecclesiastics is very considerable; all the churches and convents are richly endowed; and the monks have an inexhaustable fund, in the mistaken devotion of the faithful; their great riches, and their want of morality, have sometimes attracted the attention of the government.

Of the churches in this city, that of the parish of St. Michael is worthy of notice: it was formerly a mosque of the Moors. At the time when the islanders were converted to the christian faith, the holy mysteries were celebrated for the first time in this church. It is one of the smallest, being only 163 palms in length, and 87 in width.

The handsomest and richest churches are those belonging to the monasteries. They preserve in that of the Augustines the body of Saint Catharine Tomasa, who was a Majorcan. They also shew in the village of Valdemusa, her paternal residence, in front of which they have placed an iron cross. The

feast of this saint is celebrated every year with much magnificence; her life and her miracles are recorded in many works of her countrymen. Curiosity impelled me to turn over the leaves of one of these writings in the Majorcan idiom. Bartholomew Pont, the author, seemed to have collected some good stories for children and old women; but the style of this panegyrist is devoid of every charm.

The churches of St Eulalia, and St. Magia, possess the dangerous privilege of being an asylum for criminals who take refuge there. Every church in Spain was formerly an inviolable refuge for criminals and persons pursued by justice, who could not be taken from thence, without the assurance of not being condemned to death, whatever might be the crime. In civil matters, all the proceedings of justice were suspended. For example, a bankrupt in that asylum had nothing to fear from his creditors. It may be easily supposed, how much a privilege of this kind is injurious to the safety and tranquillity of the public, a privilege which gives to the man without morals advantages so prejudicial to probity and honesty. The multiplicity of shocking abuses, which this privilege occasioned, at length determined the government to confine it to a certain number of churches in every city.

The church of St. Eulalia is situated in the market place; that of St. Magia is in the suburb of St. Catharine, which is entirely inhabited by sea-faring men. Its being thus situated in a part which is generally filled with the common people, makes the privilege particularly injurious to society.

The exchange is one of the most beautiful buildings in the city. It is a very large hall, whose roof is only supported by four light pillars. The stone of which it is built, was taken from the quarries of Santagni. The style of architecture is gothic. The epoch of the building of this exchange, is anterior to that of the discovery of America. It is a monument of the splendour of the commerce which enriched the Majorcans at that time. The wages of the workmen who were employed in building this edifice, amounted to 15,000 ducats, an enormous sum in those days, when gold and silver were not very common. Behind this exchange is a garden; where they formerly cultivated only exotic and scarce plants. The love-apple, and the pimento, of which the Majorcans are so fond, have now taken their place. This garden was also ornamented with a stone fountain, and jet, and with several statues, of which there is now nothing to be seen but the ruins. The hall of the exchange, being a convenient place for the purpose, is used for the masked balls given at the time of

the carnival. I have seen there above twelve hundred persons mingled together in the greatest confusion.

Near the garden of the exchange there is a small house, where the tribunal of commerce holds its sessions.

The town-hall also deserves the attention of the traveller, for architecture, and the sculptured ornaments on the front of the building. They are like those on the rest of the public edifices, of a gothic sort, but of curious workmanship. The interior is divided into several halls where the civil and criminal courts are held. The Majorcans are eager to shew to strangers, the room where are placed the portraits of the illustrious characters, and the great men, who have done honour to Majorca, with those of the present day, who hold the first rank among their fellow citizens. I was not a litttle astonished to see among the first class of these portraits, that of Hannibal, who they assert was born at Majorca. The Majorcans relate, that Hamilcar passing from Africa to Catalonia, with his wife, who at that time was pregnant, landed on a point of the island, where was a temple dedicated to the goddess Lucina, and that Hannibal first drew breath in this place. This same story is found in Dameto's History of Majorca. A lofty ambition, and excessive self-love, make a very prominent feature in the general character of all islanders. I have had time and frequent occasions to observe the truth of this remark, during a residence of above five and twenty years in different islands. The high opinion, which the Majorcans entertain of themselves, is the result of the want of a knowledge of the world, and of the opportunities of comparison with strangers, of whom they see only a few travellers. Thus a Majorcan, like every other islander, thinks there is nothing in the world which can be compared with his own country. He boasts of the superiority with great confidence, and it is a vain attempt to endeavour to remove a prejudice which is so flattering. All the pictures which ornament this room of the town-hall, are portraits of the bishops, ecclesiastics, and illustrious military characters; they have also the portrait of Saint Raymond Lullus, and king don Jayme, the conqueror, is represented on foot, in a costume which much resembles the long robe of the Greeks.

From this hall we pass to that which is used for a drawing-school, where a certain number of young men take lessons from masters, who are paid by the archbishop of Seville, who is a Majorcan, and by the bishop of Majorca, who are the founders of this school. All the other apartments are large empty rooms. In front of the building there is a long iron balcony, which seems to have been added within these few years.

The Majorcans preserve with much veneration, the armour of king don Jayme. It consists of a helmet, a cuirass of gilt iron, a long rusty sword, and a piece of a lance. The saddle, housings, and harness of his horse, are also preserved with the same care, though they are nothing but shreds and tatters. These relics, together with all the portraits, are exposed in front of the town hall, on the last day of the year, which is a holiday, kept in memory of the day in which don Jayme made his entrance into Palma. The portrait of this prince is placed under a canopy. A large stuffed lizard, about two feet long, is also exposed to view; this is suspended over the door of an apothecary, who is very vain and tenacious of the privilege. Nothing can be more astonishing, than that persons seemingly well informed, should repeat seriously the ridiculous stories which they relate on the subject of this lizard; "This monster," say they, seeming still to behold it with fear, "formerly ravaged the island of Majorca, and unpeopled the dwellings that were near the morass to which it usually retired. One of the ancestors of the apothecary, who possessed the skin, succeeded in delivering the island from this plague. He has been granted the privilege of thus exhibiting this monument of his prowess, on the day which recals the memory of the conquest of the island, and its deliverance from its subjection to the Moors.

A piece of antiquity, which appeared to me well worthy of attention, was the clock of the town-hall, called Balearic. Dameto, the historian, in the description which he gives of it, fills six pages in folio with a dissertation on the manner of dividing the day among the different people of antiquity. Mut, who wrote the continuation, has also dedicated four pages to an eulogy on this curiosity.

This very ancient piece of mechanism is called the clock of the Sun. It shews the hours from the rising until the setting of that luminary; following the greater or less extent of the diurnal and nocturnal arch; so that on the 10th of June it strikes the first hour of the day at half past five, and the fourteenth at half-past seven; the first of the night at half-past eight; the ninth at half-past four, on the morning following. It is the inverse to begin from the 10th of December, during the course of the year. The hours are exactly regulated according to the variations of the rising and setting of the sun. This clock is not of much use to the people of the country, as they regulate the time from the modern clocks. It is, however, of service to gardeners to determine the proper time for watering their plants. It is not known at what epoch this curiosity was brought to Palma. It is not thought that it came from

Spain, Germany, or Italy, where the Romans had introduced the manner of dividing the day into twelve hours; beginning at the rising of the sun. If we are to go back for the epoch and place for the construction of this machine to the time of the Israelites, we shall see, that under the reign of King David, the day and night were divided into four vigils. At the coming of Jesus Christ, the Jewish hours made three of the present mode of reckoning. However, an ecclesiastic, rector of the University of Palma, assures us, in the third part of a Work upon the Seraphic Religion, that some fugitive Jews in the time of Vespasian dug out this famous clock from the ruins of Jerusalem, and transported it to Majorca, where they had taken refuge:— miraculous origin, well suited to the characteristic taste of the islanders for the marvellous!! The historians, Dameto and Mut, only date the antiquity of this Balearic clock from the year 1385. It was brought from the convent of Dominicans, and placed in the tower, where it now is.

Near the town-hall are the prisons; where, as in all others of Spain, the unfortunate inhabitants breathe an unwholesome air, and are at the mercy of cruel and unfeeling gaolers.

The house of the Inquisition has nothing remarkable; the name alone is sufficient to check any curiosity of visiting this abode. The Inquisition is no longer that dreadful tribunal, whose proceedings and judgments so many writers have transmitted to posterity; probably with a little exaggeration. The edicts of the government, marked with humanity, justice, and wisdom, have taken from the Inquisition that authority which was so dangerous: the places are now only given to such ecclesiastics as are distinguished by their virtues, moderation, and learning.

The Jews, a class of people whose only crime was often the wealth they had acquired by their industry, and their knowledge of trade, now live in peace, and may increase the riches of their country, without fear of the torch and of the stake. The Inquisition, a tribunal formerly so terrible, cannot now even disturb the liberty of a citizen, except it is previously authorised by the government, which alone pronounces on the validity of their motives. If any individual attracts the attention of the Inquisitors, by offensive conduct, or irreligious conversation, he is cited to appear before them, when he is charitably reminded of the duties which a citizen owes to society; and it is only his obstinate perseverance in his errors that can subject him to punishment, which generally is a few days' seclusion in a convent. It too often happens, that strangers, whose minds are already prejudiced by what they have read or heard of the Inquisition,

entertain a mistaken opinion, judging by some abuses, of which they are witnesses; and which ought to be attributed either to the ignorance or indiscreet zeal, and more generally to the officiousness of some inferior agents. I have myself seen some instances of this: I witnessed the confiscation of "The Course of Study," composed by Condillac for the education of a prince of the house of Spain, which was condemned through the eagerness of one of these agents; but it was reclaimed, and immediately the inquisitors ordered it to be restored. Nevertheless, we still see in the convent of the monks of St. Dominick, pictures which preserve the recollection of the barbarities formerly exercised on the Jews. Every one of those unfortunate beings who were burnt, is represented in a picture, at the bottom of which is written the name, age, and the time when the unhappy victim suffered. I was assured, that a few years back, the descendants of these unfortunates, who now form a particular class among the inhabitants of Palma, under the ridiculous denomination of *Owls*, had in vain offered considerable sums of money, to have the distressing memorials effaced. I refused to believe the fact, but they assured me, that there was now in force a decree of government to punish every individual who uttered any injurious expressions against a Jew; that of *owl* is specified, and particularly forbidden, on pain of severe punishment; but, unfortunately, it is sanctioned by custom.

I shall never forget one day, when I was walking in the cloister of the Dominicans, and looking with concern on these paintings, a monk approached me, and made me observe among them several that were distinguished by crossed bones. These, said he, are the portraits of those whose ashes were dug up, and cast to the winds. My blood chilled, and I turned from him with horror. My heart sickened at the scene.

A Narrative of the Order of the Inquisition, which was printed in the year 1755, came, by chance, into my hands, which contained the names, surnames, rank, and crimes of the unhappy beings who were sentenced at Majorca, from the year 1645 to to the year 1691. I shuddered as I read. I there found that four Majorcans, accused of Judaism, one of whom was a woman, were burnt alive; thirty-two others, for the same crime, died in the dungeons of the Inquisition, and their bodies were burnt; the ashes of three were dug up and thrown to the winds: a Dutchman, accused of Lutheranism, a Majorcan, of Mahometanism, six Portuguese, one of whom was a woman, and seven Majorcans, for Judaism, were burnt in effigy, having been so fortunate as to make their escape. I counted two hundred and sixteen other victims, Majorcans and strangers, accused of

Judaism, heresy, or Mahometanism, who came out of the prisons, after having publicly retracted, and being again received into the bosom of the church. This dreadful catalogue was closed by a sentence of the Inquisition, no less horrible, of which I have here given a translation from the original Spanish:

"All the criminals mentioned in this relation were publicly condemned by the holy office, as heretics; all their goods confiscated, and applied to the royal revenue; declared unfit and incapable of having or holding dignities or benefices, either ecclesiastic or secular, or other public offices, or honours; neither might they wear, nor carry about their persons, either gold or silver, pearls, precious stones, coral, silk, camblet, or fine cloth; neither might they ride a horse, carry arms, or use and employ other things, which by common justice, laws, and pragmatics of this kingdom, instructions and customs of the holy office, are prohibited to those individuals who are thus proscribed; the same prohibition extends, in the case of women condemned to the fire, to their sons and daughters, and in that of men, to their grandsons in the male line. At the same time, execrating the memory of those burnt in effigy; and commanding that their bones (when they could be distinguished from those of faithful christians) should be dug up, and delivered to justice and the secular power, to be burnt, and reduced to ashes: and that every inscription, or armorial bearing, which should be found on their tombs or elsewhere, should be erased and obliterated, so that no other memorial of them should remain on the earth, than that of their condemnation and execution."

There are four hospitals in Palma. That of the City, designed for the poor; that called The Mercy, for the reception of children, who are the offsprings of debauchery, or youthful imprudence, or deserted by unnatural parents, and for the aged of both sexes, whose infirmities make them incapable of working for their bread. The military hospital for the soldiers of the garrison, and that called The Pity, for the reception and confinement of women of licentious conduct. The city hospital is a handsome building; the men occupy two large wards, and the women two others. There are, besides, three wards, which are supported by particular societies. The whole hospital can contain five hundred beds. The sick are well attended; the beds are good, and the food proper and wholesome; the wards are large and well ventilated. There is also another part divided into small chambers, where the windows are strongly grated, which is designed for those who have had the misfortune to lose their reason, and whose madness is violent and dangerous.

This hospital is attended by people of both sexes; it is endowed by the city; and the property of the theatre belongs to it, of which it has a third of the profits of the daily receipts, and the rent of the boxes. The management is confided to some of the principal inhabitants of Majorca, who zealously endeavour to fulfil a trust at once honourable and important, as it tends to meliorate the sufferings of the afflicted.

The other hospitals presented only a spectacle of misery. That of Mercy has no fixed revenue, and is merely supported by the voluntary contributions of the charitable inhabitants, and the profits of the labours of children, and of the aged, who are employed in spinning flax. This emolument is very inconsiderable; and the situation of those who are in the hospital is truly pitiable. The same sentiment of compassion prevails on seeing the military hospital, which is as badly constructed as situated. It may contain three hundred beds. It is managed by a person who may be said to farm it, and who receives from the king six reals per diem for each patient. This man provides beds, medicines, and food, and pays all those who are employed under him. The chaplain, physician, and surgeon have salaries from the king. The intendant of the province, and a commissioner of war, have the inspection of this hospital. The expenditure for each patient is estimated at three reals: the overplus of the sum granted by the king, is a perquisite which the person who farms the hospital divides with those whom he employs. Those patients who are crowded into the lower wards breathe a mephitic air, often occasioning fatal terminations to distempers, which originally were not at all dangerous. The seeds of putrefaction spread so much the more from not having a free circulation and change of air in the wards, and the want of cleanliness, which every observer must remark. The defenders of their country are here very far from enjoying those benefits which the tenderness of their sovereign means to supply them. Here, as it is in most other public establishments, rapacious avarice and ignorance swallow with impunity those funds which should give comfort to the afflicted.

The streets of Palma are in general narrow and ill paved, and there is not even one regular square in the whole city; and though the historian Dameto compares the Place des Bornes to the most beautiful squares in the several capitals of Europe, it is, in fact, only a small space of land of irregular shape, unpaved, and surrounded with dismal-looking houses. It is, however, the greatest promenade of strangers, and the daily rendezvous of those who do not know how to employ their time. The news of the day is there detailed, and politicians settle the affairs

of the state. The orators and auditors, at times, retreat into some mean coffee-house to enliven their imaginations with a glass of liquor, or to cool their arguments with refreshing draughts. Such are the delights of this place of which Dameto boasts so greatly. Scorched by the heat of the sun, and choaked with dust in summer; and in winter almost buried in the mud.

Palma has also another small square, situated near the port, from which it is only separated by the ramparts of the city. They have given the name of Terra Sana to this place.

According to general observation, made at the time when the plague raged in the island of Majorca, which is about eighty years ago, this quarter of the city was least affected by its ravages. The Terra Sana may be about large enough for eight hundred men to draw up in battle-array. One of the sides is formed by a small barrack, which is sometimes filled with foot-soldiers, and sometimes with cavalry. The stables will only contain from twenty-five to thirty horses. The square of the Terra Sana was formerly covered by the sea, and there is still to be seen the ancient entrance of the port. In short, there are no public promenades in Majorca; for la Rambe cannot be looked upon as deserving such a title, being only a walk about two hundred paces in length, with large trees on each side, and some stone seats. Of this walk no care is taken; for even those trees which have decayed, or been cut down, are not replaced; and though those which remain are very large, they are so distant one from the other, that they afford but little shelter either from the heat of the sun, or from the rain.

There is only a small space between La Rambe and the Place des Bornes, and it terminates at the gate of Jesus. On passing this gate we find another walk bordered with small trees, whose foliage is neither a shelter from the sun, nor pleasant to the eye. It is in length about six hundred paces, and reaches as far as the convent of Jesus. This promenade is frequented on holidays in the evening. The ladies here take an airing in their clumsy coaches. These heavy vehicles, drawn by mules harnessed with cords, follow one another in a train round this promenade for two or three hours. The footboards of these carriages are placed on the outside, and serve the young gallants to stand on while they make their court to the fair, who are much flattered by this public testimony of their regard. Any carriage which is going to or returning from the country, is obliged to take its place at the end of this train; from which it can only separate at the place where the carriages began their round. This custom every one is obliged to comply with. I was one day witness to a very diverting fracas. The lady of the governor

general took it in her head to break the rank of coaches, and hers was instantly involved with all the rest. Nothing could be more ridiculous than this confusion, which might, however, have had very serious consequences. The Majorcan ladies stretched their necks out at the coach-windows, and addressed themselves to the governor's lady in the most insulting manner; who, on her part, returned the indecent expressions from her coach, and threatened them, shaking her fan. Add to this scene the language of the coachmen and footmen, who joined in the dispute and quarrelled among themselves, with the laughter and shouts of those who walked, and you will have some idea of this ridiculous scene. Would any one believe that this affair was the subject of long complaints, with which they pestered the court of Madrid. The process was determined in favour of the Majorcan ladies.

This manner of taking the air is called the "Roda."

If any one wishes to enjoy the pleasure of breathing freely a purer air than that of the city, he must go a considerable way into the country, where only the riches and beauties of nature are to be seen. They might, however, without much expence, make a very pleasant promenade, if to the distance from the gate of the port to that of Jesus was joined the place of the Bornes and the Rambe, they might plant a double row of trees, such as elms, which are very majestic, and afford a fine shade. They might also add to the pleasantness of the place by repairing a fountain, the ruins of which are to be seen at the end of the Rambe, which would be particularly useful in a city generally supplied with water only from cisterns.

But it is in vain to hope that the Majorcans would determine on any improvement which would unite utility with pleasure. They prefer being scorched in the sun, and soaked in the rain, and repeat, with the extravagant Dameto, that nothing equals their Place des Bornes and their Rambe. They actually assert it, and what is worse, they believe it.

Between the two last mentioned places is situated the theatre. It has been built about forty years, and is the property of the City Hospital. An escutcheon is placed above the stage, which bears these three letters, A. G. P. This theatre is large, with four ranges of boxes, to the number of seventy; those belonging to the city officers occupy the lower part of the space, and that of the governor general is level with the stage, on the left hand in entering. The pit can hold about three hundred spectators, who sit on wooden forms. The stage is in proportion to the size of the theatre. This building has no exterior ornament, and resembles a storehouse, or rather a barn. There is

but one entrance for the public. In front are some arches which support an open gallery; two small doors behind are used as entrances, one for the governor general, and the other for the performers. Near the entrance, in the interior, is a kind of coffee-room. All the boxes are let, with the exception of some few, which are the exclusive property of different families of Palma, who subscribed to the original fund at the time the theatre was built. The stage decorations are but poor, having no other funds than the rent of the boxes and the receipts at the doors, which barely suffice to pay the performers and others employed in the theatre.

The representations are composed of pieces of different sorts. The first is always a comedy or a tragedy; after which they perform the *tonadille*, a piece of Spanish music; a kind of cantata, which consists almost entirely of quavers of the voice, as tiresome to the hearer as to the singer. The poetry marks the particular taste of the people, and the words are the most trifling expressions of lovers. This cantata is sung by a male or female performer, or by both together. Sometimes, instead of the *tonadille*, there is a quartetto, or trio, of Italian music, to which Spanish words are adapted. To the *tonadille* succeeds the volero, or the minuet fandangado, a Spanish dance, performed by a man and woman dressed *a la majo*, or in the costume of Andalusia. This dance is much admired by the Spaniards, who are pleased to applaud those contortions and attitudes, at which a stranger cannot avoid blushing. The spectacle concludes with a *saineté*, a little piece with which the people are infinitely pleased, as their manners and common customs are given with the most striking similitude. Sometimes the saineté consists of two little pieces, which are performed at the same time, for example: at the bottom of the stage is fitted up a smaller stage, where while they act a scene of washer-women, another of coblers is playing on the ordinary boards. The actors in the two pieces address themselves to each other in the course of the representation: the audience are delighted, and applaud with all their might, while the few who are accustomed to any thing like propriety and decorum, take the first opportunity to escape from the noise and confusion. I have seen one of these miserable farces at Barcelona, and am no longer astonished at those of Majorca. Generally, the theatre serves at once to meliorate the manners and to instruct the common people; but in Spain it is precisely the contrary; for, in many Spanish pieces, immorality and disgusting indecency prevails. And with respect to the historical and literary part of the Spanish theatre, it is impossible to form an idea of the extravagancies and anachronisms which abound.

These are to be noticed in all their plays, not even excepting the best of them. Their authors do not confine themselves to the rules of dramatic composition; they do not attend to the unity of either time or place; but their pieces represent whole histories or romances. The hero of the piece appears in the first act as a child; and at the end dies in extreme old age, under a different hemisphere from that where it commenced; and often his history is continued during several days. The Spaniards call the acts *giornate*. It is with great difficulty that the intricacy of the piece can be followed, or rather guessed at: for the story generally finishes abruptly, without any dénouement; the curtain falls, and it is almost impossible to give an account of what we have seen performed. To these defects of composition is added the total want of scenic deception: the negligencies, unpardonable absurdities in the costumes and decorations, and the most perfect ignorance of the subject in those who perform the several characters. In a piece called The Death of Hector, I have seen the hero of Greece, and the defender of Troy, appear, the one in a dragoon's uniform, and the other dressed as a hussar; king Priam in a French habit, ornamented with the insignia of the order of Charles the Third; and the beautiful Andromache in the fashion of the present time. A detachment of grenadiers under arms, with bayonets fixed, composed the armies of the Greeks and Trojans. The scene represented the field of battle. In the distance was to be seen the unfortunate Ilium, whose towers were changed into steeples. A roll of the drum gave the signal for engagement, and Hector announced, as he was dying, that the play was concluded, by saying *a qui s'acaba la comedia*. I could not help indulging the fancy of diverting myself a little at the expence of the manager. I observed to him, that Achilles and Hector fought with pistols, and not with swords. He frankly confessed that he was unacquainted with this circumstance; thanked me for my information, and promised to correct the error the first time the piece should be played again; and he kept his word. In another play, called "Aristotle, the Preceptor of Alexander," I have seen the philosopher in the costume of a bishop, with the pastoral cross; the conqueror of the Persians in a modern habit, with a red ribbon to distinguish him from Philip, whose order was blue; the princesses in Spanish habits. The scene should have been the interior of the king's palace; but it was a forest. Nevertheless several of our best authors have taken from Spanish pieces the subjects of theirs, which are deservedly admired. They have, like our artists, known how to make use of the Spanish materials to advantage. In the dramatic works of that country, there are

often found passages where genius is displayed, and where the passions and sentiments are given with dignity and animation; purity of style, with the choice and force of expression, would make one believe that the piece was only a compilation of passages collected from different works, and badly put together, and which may be compared to pearls set in base metal. The Spaniards are very fond of noise: thus their favourite pieces are those where they represent the battles between their countrymen and the Moors. It is of little consequence how the subject is conducted, while there is clashing of sabres and swords, killing of people, and castles destroyed; they ask nothing more, and the piece is excellent.

The *Trémoiés* are another sort of pieces which are much to their taste: these are those in which the many different changes of scenery, and the number of stage tricks, make all the merit. The hero is always a magician performing wonders, or a saint working miracles. Such is the school where the Spaniards take their lessons of morality and history.

The houses of Palma are generally large but ill contrived, and very little ornamented. All the display is found at the entrance, in a kind of vestibule, or portico, supported by a number of pillars. I have remarked some that were of fine marble. The manner in which the houses are built recals to recollection the times when the Moors were in possession of the island. They almost all consist of a ground floor divided into small rooms, and of one above, where the apartments are large and lofty. They are cool in the summer, and freezing cold in the winter. Above these large rooms is a second floor, open on every side; this is a kind of loft, or rather garret, where the washing is done, and where they have every convenience for drying. They have no chimnies, except in the kitchens, and these are not of much use, as all their victuals are dressed on stoves; they also warm themselves with brasiers; these are small pans, or stoves, to burn charcoal. Nothing can be so amusing as a Majorcan evening: men and women ranged, or rather squatted, on very low seats around the brasier. One, who has a small paper cigarre in his mouth, puffs the smoak amorously in the face of his mistress; who modestly looks down and stirs up the ashes in the brasier with a copper spoon; another relates the news of the day, or volunteers a song; sometimes the whim takes the master of the house to sing the service in a doleful tone, at the same time counting the beads of his rosary; all the company joins in a low note, and even the servant girl, who is perhaps cowering her coppers, joins her voice from the kitchen to those above. It is impossible for a stranger to keep his place among

them any length of time; he retires stammering *un bon nit tingers*, which is their manner of wishing good night.

The French emigrants at Majorca have introduced the use of chimnies. Those which the Majorcans now have are almost all the work of Frenchmen.

Their residence in this island, and the increase of the garrison, have also led to an alteration in the manner of building houses. Lodging became scarce, and the hire of apartments increased in proportion. The Majorcans, whose fortunes consisted of houses, altered their large rooms, and divided them into smaller apartments, for the convenience of receiving a greater number of lodgers. Those who built, altered the plan of the staircases to take up a smaller space of ground; they constructed the stairs more perpendicular, which has made them difficult of ascent, and dangerous to descend, particularly to those who are subject to vestigo.

I remarked here, as in most of the houses in the cities of Spain and Italy, the singular custom of placing the privies near the kitchens. I could not obtain a satisfactory reason for this particularity. As to many other questions, they answered me it was the custom.

In Cooke's Voyages, may be found some conjectures on the origin and motive for the situation of these places, which seemed to me to be so extraordinarily misplaced. This celebrated voyager remarked, in a part of the isle of Portland, where he landed, that the Indians, not so cleanly in their persons as the Otahetians, surpassed them in one particular, of which there is probably no example among the other Indian nations. Every house, or every hamlet, had places of this sort, so that no ordure was seen on the ground. The refuse of their meals, the litter and other dirt, was also put in regular heaps, which they probably made use of as manure. These Indians were at that time farther advanced in this article of police than a nation which is one of the most considerable in Europe. In the year 1760 there was not a privy in all Madrid, the capital of Spain, though the city was plentifully supplied with water. Before this epoch, the inhabitants used to throw at night all their filth from their windows into the streets, and a number of men were employed to remove it to the extremity of the lower part of the city, where it remained till it was dried, and was then loaded in carts and disposed of out of the gates of the city. The king, having resolved to abolish this custom, made an edict, by which every proprietor of a house was commanded to build places for the purpose, and that sewers, sinks, and drains, should be made, and kept in repair at the expence of the public. The Spaniards

looked on this regulation as an infringement of the common rights of men, and strongly resisted its being put in force. Every class of the citizens made some objection to the edict. The physicians remonstrated, and asserted, that if the ordure was not thrown out as usual into the streets, that distempers would infallibly ensue: they pretended that the human body would absorb the putrid particles of the air, which were attracted by those ordures. This opinion, embraced by most of those who were proprietors, decided the situation of the privies in the houses. They believed that the mass of ordure would prevent the particles of foul air from fixing on other substances; they therefore have their privies near their kitchens, that their victuals may be kept wholesome.

A great part of the poor inhabitants of Majorca live in a sort of cellars, or caves, where there is neither light nor air, except from the entrance. They are generally damp, and the want of fresh airs add to the unhealthiness of these cavities. From this cause proceeds an infinite number of distempers and sudden deaths; and, in the winter, the inhabitant shuts himself up in his den, lights the fire in his brasier, and endeavours to find comfort in a place where he only meets his destruction from the vapours which have no vent.

CHAP. IV.

SITUATION—EXTENT—COAST—AND ANCHORAGE OF THE ISLAND OF MINORCA.

MINORCA is the second of the Balearic Isles. It takes its name from its lesser size; it runs W. N. W. and E. N. E. describing a parallelogram. From the Cape to la Mola, the E. N. E. to that of Minorca de Ciutadella, they count at least 25 miles in length; the width of the island varies from eight to 12 miles. Minorca is situated to the E. N. E. of Majorca. The strait which separates them in the point where the shores are nearest, is at most two miles and a quarter wide. From Mont Toro de Minorca, the highest point in the island, and from Cape de Ciutadella, the land of Majorca is plainly discerned. The distance to the nearest point of the shores of Catalonia is estimated to be about 145 miles N. W. ¼ W. of Buges, in Africa. They

reckon 180 miles north. Minorca is in the latitude 40° 41′ 45″, and 10° 42′ 15″ longitude east of Cadiz.

The island of Minorca is in general level, and has only one mountain of an extraordinary height; this mountain, called Mont Toro, is situated in the middle of the island, which it overlooks on every side. The principal ports of Minorca are those of Mahon to the east, of Fornels to the north, and of Ciutadella to the west.

The most conspicuous points and promontories are the point des Corps, the cape of Artuck, the cape of Minorca or Bayoli, the point la Sella, cape Caballeria, or Nancelles, that of Tavarix, and cape la Mola, of Mahon; between these there are other points and promontories that do not project near so far into the sea.

To enter the port of Mahon with the wind abaft, we must keep the middle of the passage till we have doubled the point Phillipet, which we leave to the starboard, and to the larboard the point on which was built the famous castle of Saint-Philipet. When they have doubled these two points, ships of the largest size may range the coast on each side the port. The soundings are five fathoms near the shore, and increases to twelve and eighteen in the middle of the port. However, they generally make their course to the south, as they pass between the shore and the island on which the Lazaretto is built.

In making the road Pedrera, in a ship or frigate, it is absolutely necessary to keep to the south, and between the southern shore and the Isles de Rè, or of the Isle of Hospital, and of the Redonda, which is only a small island. Ships may also pass between this island and that of the Lazaretto; but although five fathoms are found in the northern part of this little strait, it is so narrow, that it requires a perfect knowledge of the passage to venture through it. To the E. N. E. of the island, there is a a shoal with twenty-four feet of water only, upon which ships have grounded that have anchored to the south of this shoal.

With the wind at south, and having doubled the Isle of the Hospital and the small island, vessels are safe in port, and may remain close in shore on either side, at the distance of about half a cable's length, as far as the southern part of the island, on which is erected the machine to mast the ships. The anchorage is here seven or eight fathoms, good bottom mooring, across north-east and south-west.

Entering with the wind N. E. N. W. and S. W. it is necessary to take care and avoid a shoal which runs out to the south from the point of the Mola, about the third of a cable's length; at this distance, the soundings are four fathoms; but a little far-

ther out there is a good bottom. There is another shoal which runs out above half a cable's length to the south-east of the point Phillipet; at this distance the bottom is four or five fathoms. Another shoal to the E. N. E. from the point of the castle of Saint-Philip, runs out half a cable's length. With ever so little sea, the breakers of these three shoals are seen, from their beginning half way across; but if there is a heavy sea, the breakers are observed the whole length; so that viewing the three points sideways, the entrance of the port appears only one continued reef.

Near the middle of that part of the point where the castle of St. Philip was built, which place is called the Redon, there is another shoal which runs out to sea, about the third of a cable's length; the breakers are only seen when the wind blows fresh N. and N. E.; and when it is S. W. the entrance is unsafe. When the wind is too strong to get within these shoals, there is good anchorage on the outside of them, of 25 and 30 fathom, good bottom; but it must be observed, that there is here a high sea when the wind is north.

The Cape Mola, to the N. E. of the mouth of the harbour, is a high perpendicular promontory; at the foot of which are three rocks that may be approached without fear; the bottom clean.

N. N. W. quarter W. a mile and three quarters from the Mola, is Cape Negro, thus named from its blackish appearance; it is not very high, and does not project far. Between the Mola and another small point, is a creek called Los Freos; near the land are several rocks.

N. W. from Cape Negro, are two small creeks, called the Old and New Mesquitas; these are of no use. In front are two small rocks, called Mesquita and Bombarda, which resemble two vessels sunk. The creek which is most to the south is not clean, and with ever so little sea the breakers are seen.

On this part of the coast the bottom is stony, and nothing but a case of necessity would make any one anchor here; where, even in summer, they run the risk of losing their anchors; and in winter of being shipwrecked.

To the north of the Mesquita is the roadstead to Benillanti, and the points la Galere and of Bufera, not at all remarkable.

At about three quarters of a mile from Bufera, is seen the island of Coloms; it is of some height, and forms with the coast a canal, through which only fishermens' boats can pass. At its eastern and southern points are two smaller islands, and a shoal which runs a cable's length into the sea, having only two

fathom of water; all the rest of the island of Coloms is clean. In the western part there is an anchorage, called Seselanes, proper for vessels of a moderate burthen. Before anchoring, a vessel must make a little island near the land, called Arenal del Moro, which after having passed, and left to the larboard, it may moor in six or seven fathoms, with an anchor to the N. W. and carrying an hawser ashore to the S. E. In this anchorage vessels are protected from every wind except the N. W. which brings a great deal of sea; but they ride safely with good cables. Ships may anchor also in the S. E. part of the island with an anchor to the S. E. and by carrying an hawser to the N. W. upon the island. The bottom in this place is sandy, and there is six or seven fathoms. It is protected from every wind except from the E. N. E. to the E. S. E. which raise a high sea, enough to endanger small craft, which ride more safely in the port of Grace, a little bay, which goes in shore to the W. S. W. where two points form the mouth of it: there are two shoals, so that in entering, care must be taken to keep the middle of the passage: it is guarded from every wind, but there is little holding ground.

To anchor to the S. E. of the island of Coloms, it must be remembered, that near the shore, at the southern point of the anchorage, there is a little island, called Juida, between which and the coast there is only a passage for small boats. This island must be left to the larboard, and, after having doubled it, a point of land is observed, called Fray Bernat, where immediately begins the beach; before arriving at which is the anchorage.

At a mile and a half to the N. N. W. of the island of Coloms is Cape Musegne Vivés; it is high and steep, but does not go far into the sea. To the E. N. E. of this cape a shoal runs out near three quarters of a mile, having but six fathoms at the extremity. The coast then forms a large cove, or creek, almost as far as cape Tavaritz.

This cape is low at the extremity: seen from the distance of three leagues at sea; it has the appearance of three small islands; it juts out considerably, and the land raises gradually from the extremity of the cape.

Three miles and a half to the W. one quarter N. W. of Cape Tavaritz, are the isles and port of Adaia, and the roadstead of Molins.

The greater island of Adaia runs N. E. and S. W.; the smaller, which is the lower, N. and S. The first is a little mountainous on the northern side, but the two others are very level. To go into the port of Adaia, ships must make the western shore, which is called Noucous; this coast is clean. Thus all the

islands are left to the larboard, and having doubled that which is in the middle of the port, they anchor in four fathoms, opposite the mouth of the creek Molins, which is to the west of the little interior island. If they would go farther into the port of Adaia, which hardly merits the name of a harbour, and the mouth which is very narrow, and will only admit small vessels, they pass the small interior island, and may then moor in any part. This port runs in shore about a mile to the S. E.; it has seven fathoms water at the entrance; but at the distance of a cable's length toward the shore of Noucous, it decreases to three fathoms. It has four fathoms at the mouth of the creek of Molins.

To the south-east of the greater island, at about half a cable distance, is another small round island, called Aguila.

The port of Fornels is perfectly sheltered, and can receive into its harbour vessels of every size. The mouth is narrow but clean, having from 17 to 20 fathoms of water.

There are numerous other creeks and harbours on this coast, of little consequence to navigators, as none but small craft can find anchorage in them.

CHAP. V.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN OF MAHON AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY.

THE island of Minorca is divided into four small provinces, or districts, called *Terminos*. The first of these has Mahon for its principal town. Its territory is surrounded by the sea on three sides, and terminates on the side of the land at Alayor. Its population, which is from 16 to 18,000 souls, is distributed in the town of Mahon; the suburb of Saint Charles, called Ravalle Neuf; the villages of Saint Louis, Biniatap, and about one hundred and forty farms, or country houses. Mahon, the principal town of this district, is at the same time the capital of the island, a prerogative which is disputed by the town of Ciutadella; this rivalship, founded on ridiculous pretensions, has been hurtful to the general good.

Mahon is built on the shore, to the left of the entrance into the port, and is seated on high rocks; it overlooks two harbours, and has a sufficiently picturesque appearance. Owing to its elevation, the inhabitants of the town enjoy a wholesome atmo-

sphere, and they are there less tormented with musquitoes than in the rest of the island. This species of insect abounds during the heat of the summer, and its sting occasions a great deal of smart and inflammation.

Several of the rocks which support the city of Mahon, being hollowed beneath the habitations, have a frightful appearance to a spectator, who imagines at every instant the immense fragments, undermined by the ocean, falling with a dreadful crash, and overturning every thing in their way. One cannot help lamenting the indifference of the Mahonese to the dangers with which they are daily threatened: nothing can be more astonishing than the security which the inhabitants of such miraculously suspended tenements seem to entertain.

The court of Spain has, however, given orders that these dangerous rocks should be blown up; but, like many others, those orders were never obeyed. Thus, the wisest intentions of the government are but too often of no effect, owing to the interested conduct of a few individuals, particularly in those parts which are so remote from the eye of the sovereign.

The houses are generally built with some neatness and taste, but ill contrived and inconvenient within. Some of them are tiled; others have a flat roof like a terrace. The material of which these terraces are made is also used for the floors of the apartments: it consists of a very strong kind of fossil cement. Almost all the houses have vaulted cellars. In digging these subterranean apartments, they find large stones, which are used in building the houses.

The thickness of these arches varies according to the weight they have to support; they are always begun at the four corners of the space intended to be covered. The method of supporting them while they are making is very curious: the workmen do not make use of arched stays, or props, that the vault may be made with any particular exactness, but they owe the ease with which they complete their work to the nature of the cement, which serves instead of those helps that in other countries must be resorted to. After having hewn, with care, the stone they are about to use, they place it where it is to remain, and support it in the air with a simple pole; they then put mortar round the joints, leaving a hole on the top to receive the cement, which is kept in a fluid state, that it may spread instantly into every crevice. One of the properties of this cement is to harden immediately, and to fasten strongly; the stones being thus united, the pole, or support, is no longer necessary, and is removed under another stone. The vault is thus finished in very little time. When they are tiling the roofs of the houses, they raise

on the middle of that part which is to be the loft, a light beam, on which is placed the upper ends of the rafters, while the lower ends rest on the side walls. These rafters are placed about two feet distant from each other, and are almost always crooked and knotty, as they make use of the growth of the country, which produces but little wood that is fit for carpenter's work. They do not use laths, but fill up the spaces between the rafters with a sort of reeds, which grow in the island in great abundance, and which much resembles those used in the manufacture of cloth. These reeds, bound together, answer the purpose of laths extremely well, and they are of great durability. Nevertheless, they do not form a body strong enough or close enough to place the tiles on; these defects are remedied by spreading over them a bed of clay: when this is dry, it is tiled and finished. The form of these tiles is singular; they are first formed in the shape of a pipe, or tunnel, a little bigger at one end than the other; they are then cut through the middle, lengthways, which makes two tiles. They are placed, first a range on the convex side, laying the upper tile about two or three inches over the edge of the under one; thus the hollow part of these tiles are uppermost; they then put another range with the concave side undermost, so that they lock one in another. All the joinings are then filled up with the mortar. The roofs have only as much slope as is necessary to let the rain-water run off.

The stone is of an excellent quality; it is easily hewn, and becomes much harder as it is exposed to the air. They are not obliged to dig deep for this stone; it is found in great plenty near the surface of the earth, and is taken out in pieces which they call *cantons*, that are two feet in length by one in width and heighth. This stone is not liable to split, and is consequently well suited for fortifications.

Fire-stone is also very abundant and equally good.

The cement that I have already mentioned, is called *guisch*. It is a kind of gypsum, of rather a greyish colour; it is of a moderate hardness, more or less transparent, according as it is found whiter or greyer; it is extracted from the earth by means of pits dug a little distance one from the other. It is calcined before it is used, and it is tempered in a quantity of water, according to the use for which it is intended; its contact with the water occasions a violent fermentation, which abates by little and little.

The Minorcans have followed the English manner of making their windows slide with two sashes, one sliding up on the other, which, as only one half can be open at a time, prevents the free circulation of the air; the frames are generally loosened in the

grooves, and have another great inconvenience attending them, for, with ever so little wind, the play of the frames occasions a disagreeable noise; and they are obliged to fix them with little wedges, which they place between the groove and the frame; while there are always openings through which the air finds a way, which is very uncomfortable in the winter season.

The Minorcans have adopted the use of chimneys, but the greater part of them are badly built and very subject to smoke. The Spanish hearth is preferred to them, as it is more economical in a country not abounding with fire-woods.

The luxury of wainscots or hangings has not yet found its way to Minorca; they content themselves with white-washing their rooms, which they also adorn with pictures and engravings. I believe farther, that this custom is congenial with the warm climate of the country. The naked walls give an agreeable freshness, which the islanders prefer to the decorations which would deprive them of it.

Every house has cisterns cut in the rock, and lined with an excellent cement. The water which falls on the leads is conducted thither by pipes. After the rains they let the first shower run off, which is loaded with all the dirt of the leads and terraces. When the cistern is full, they leave the water some time to settle before using it. To purify it, they throw into the cistern three or four live eels, or sometimes they use a little broom made of sprigs of green myrtle. If these methods, which ordinarily succeed, be insufficient, they have recourse to emptying the cistern to clean it: these cisterns are generally of a spherical form.

The people of Mahon value themselves particularly for cleanliness and neatness in their houses: one of the principal occupations of their servants is to whiten the exterior, and to scower the stairs and floor, at least once in the week.

Mahon does not contain any public building that is worthy the notice of the traveller.

The governor's house, built on the rocks which surround the port, has nothing extraordinary. The apartments are of a good size, but so badly contrived that most of them are scarcely habitable. They have been built by different governors, who have successively inhabited the mansion, and who consulted only the convenience of the moment. The secretary, who has apartments in this building, generally prefers hiring a house for himself, or apartments in the town.

The town-hall is a small building, having a ground floor and one story; the last is composed of a kind of vestibule, and a large hall with three balcony windows next the street. Over the front, which has nothing remarkable, is placed a clock. There

is a flight of stone steps up to the entrance, which has an iron gate. That part of the building which is level with the ground, is the prison, and the habitation of the gaoler. This place of confinement is very small, very damp, and very unwholesome. Of those who are so unhappy as to be kept there for ever so short a space of time, few leave the place without rheumatic pains, or other distempers, very difficult to be cured. This gaol, originally designed only for those suspected or accused, but not condemned, is really a place of punishment, where the sufferings of the prisoners are increased by the cruelty and rapaciousness of those inhuman beings who have the charge and care of them.

Besides the parish church, there are at Mahon three monasteries. The first, of Carmelites, was founded in 1690; the second belongs to friars of the order of St. Francis, and was built in the year 1459. The Capuchins inhabit the third. They settled at Mahon in the year 1623. I visited the two first of these convents, but found nothing worth describing; the third is a retreat inaccessible to all but the inhabitants.

Mahon has also an hospital, which was founded about forty years back; it is exclusively for the relief of the Minorcans, and may contain fifty or sixty patients, who are attended by men under the direction of a physician and surgeon, who are paid by the city. The apothecary's shop is small and ill provided with drugs; but the greatest misfortune is the extreme ignorance of the practitioner. The negligence of every thing that can afford mitigation of the sufferings of the sick, is inconceivable. The first that offers himself is employed as doctor, if he has the address, on his debut, to cure a patient by leaving him entirely to nature and the goodness of his own constitution, his reputation is established, and from thenceforward he may trifle with the lives of his fellow-citizens with impunity, and rob them at the same time. Those who prepare the medicines ordered by these pretended Esculapii, are not less to be feared, as they sometimes add deception to ignorance, of which I can give an instance from my own experience. I was recovering from a serious illness; there only remained a degree of fever, for which I was ordered to take bark. A friend made me a present of a packet of this drug, of a very superior quality; I sent it to an apothecary to reduce it to powder, and divide it into equal parts. My gentleman would not lose so fine an opportunity of getting a good name for his shop; he appropriated my bark to cure his town patients, and sent me some in place of it that was good for nothing. I was obliged to the generosity of my friend for a

second supply, or probably I might have endured my fever for a considerable time.

Mahon has no public establishment for education. The young of both sexes are left to themselves. For certainly a few bad schools do not merit the name of seminaries;—where the most ignorant school-masters and monks teach as much wrong as right in the grammatical lessons of children, and pretend to explain the classic authors, which very often they themselves do not understand. Most part of the time of the class is spent in repeating, in a drawling tone, the rosary and some other prayers. This is what they call forming the minds of youth. Neither can one give the title of schools to those places where old devotees teach young girls to read, sew, or knit; all the accomplishments they themselves possess. Most part of the time is spent at prayers. It is impossible for a stranger to imagine how very deficient the people of Minorca are of every means to cultivate the minds of youth, although the place has successively, and for a great number of years, belonged to two of the most enlightened nations of Europe. All that the Mahonese have retained of the customs of the English, consists in giving a more agreeable exterior to their habitations, and in altering their simple but characteristic costume. Unfortunately, they have but too well copied part of the vices and follies of the nation which they took for a model.

At the time when Toulon was re-taken by the republicans, part of the inhabitants of that unfortunate city was obliged to seek safety in flight, and many families took refuge at Mahon. The arrival of these new neighbours presented a resource to the islanders. They might have profited by the talents and intelligence of their unhappy visitors, by offering them, in their misfortunes, an honourable means of earning a livelihood. I ought here to acknowledge, that the Mahonese have not to reproach themselves with the neglect of putting to use, in the instruction of their children, these resources, as valuable as unexpected. But the voice of authority was opposed to this inclination; and there are only a few rich individuals who made choice of instructors from among these emigrants, and confided to them the education of the young branches of their families.

The streets of Mahon are generally narrow and crooked: most of them are steep and paved with flint stones, which makes them very uneasy to the walker, particularly when it rains.

There are not any public promenades; for it would be an abuse of the term, to give the name to a small walk, planted with trees, at the lower end of the town, on the strand of the port.

This walk is called the alameda. The trees do not thrive, for the sea air and the north winds insensibly cause their decay; and they are left without the least care. There is in this walk a large cistern, from which the neighbouring inhabitants are supplied with water: there is also a watering place for horses. The alameda is but little frequented: the preference is generally given to a walk in the fields, or on the shore of the port.

The city of Mahon was formerly surrounded with a wall. There are still to be seen some remains of one of the gates; it is now within the city, and serves as entrance to one of the new streets, called the Old Ravalle, to distinguish it from the New Ravalle, which is a suburb situated on the road to Mahon, at Fort St. Charles. These remains of the wall belong to the time when Minorca was subject to the Moors.

The parade is large, and forms a square, with irregular houses on three sides, and on the fourth the barracks, a tolerable handsome building, two stories high; in the front of which is a long court, made use of to call together the troops, and to examine the arms and accoutrements. Before this court is a row of trees stunted in growth, as in general they do not thrive in this island. The barracks are divided into small rooms, each of which may contain about twenty men. At the back of these are the kitchens, separated from the body of the building by another court, or yard. Twelve hundred men may be lodged in these barracks, which would be more complete if they had added a residence for the officers. It stands on uneven ground, an inconvenience which might easily be remedied, and which alteration would make the troops appear with more regularity when under arms.

The detachment of cavalry, maintained at Mahon, are quartered, and have their stables, in an old building in the heart of the city: this habitation is dreadfully gloomy.

The artillery is divided into different corps, which keep guard at the batteries of the fort.

The port of Mahon is undoubtedly one of the surest and safest in the Mediterranean, and can contain a very numerous fleet. In this harbour are four small islands, very near the shore, on the right of the entrance. The first is called the Isle du Roi, which name, according to a tradition of the country, it acquired from king Don Alphonso landing at that place, when he came to attack the island of Minorca, in the year 1287. The size of this island may be about twelve acres. In 1711, Sir J. Yemmings, the admiral of the English fleet in the Mediterranean, built here an hospital for the navy; that which is now on the spot was begun in the year 1773, and finished in 1776, and cost four hundred thousand reals. It is for the reception of both soldiers and

sailors. This edifice stands in a very advantageous situation; is large, very airy, and forms three sides of a handsome square court: these three sides are separate buildings. The two lateral sides are terminated by two small houses, which are divided into separate rooms; these houses have each a small garden; one of them is the residence of the governor of the hospital, and the office for business. In the other is the apothecary's shop and surgery, and the apartments for the officers of health. Opposite the hospital are two small buildings, where the bedding, linen, &c. &c. are kept. Behind these is another, which is divided into two long rooms, where bedsteads and other goods and utensils are deposited.

At the time of the arrival of the Spanish squadron, commanded by M. de Langara, coming from Toulon after its evacuation by the English, this general brought and placed here nearly three hundred sick persons.

The hospital is rather damp: three wells dug in the court supply it with water. The sick are divided into thirty-six small wards, each containing thirteen or fourteen beds; but there is room enough for twice the number. Each sick person has a bed to himself, and they are distributed according to the nature of their complaints. A covered gallery, supported by pillars, surround the building. On the centre of the front is a clock. The surgery is small but convenient; the kitchens, and offices belonging to them, appear to me to be on rather too small a scale, according to the size of the hospital, and want several conveniences; for example, there is no bakehouse. I tasted the soup, bread, wine, &c. and found them much better than I expected.

This hospital, at the time I visited it, was almost stripped of every thing. The English, in evacuating Minorca, had only left there the portrait of Commodore Harrison and Rear Admiral Peters, which were placed in one of the wards. The Spaniards did not think proper to preserve these two paintings.

The Intendant of Baleares, on his arrival at Mahon, set about re-establishing this hospital. He found it without any funds, and proposed to a person to furnish the necessaries for the use of the establishment, at a certain price. This individual, who had supplied the hospital before the last invasion of the island by the English, refused to accept the proposal; offering, at the same time, to provide every thing from his own proper purse, without interest for three months. The proposition was accepted. This generosity appeared to me to be an ingenious speculation. It had been indeed a very rare example of singular virtue in a man, who had acquired a fortune with a rapidity truly surprising, to believe that he was thus making a sort of restitution. I rather

think the motive of his zeal might be the hope of recompense in some shape or other.

Almost opposite the island of the hospital, and on that side of the port where the town is situated, is a cavity called the oyster cavern, because of the quantity of oysters found there; it is hollowed out of the rock, exposed to the N. E. and sheltered from the sun. The coolness of this place during the summer, engages many parties to make promenades thither, where they are amused by the fishing for oysters, which is generally done by Spanish seamen. The work requires two of them; one strips and fastens a hammer to his right hand, makes the sign of the cross, recommends himself to his patron saint, and throws himself into the sea. He dives sometimes ten or twelve fathoms to find the oysters by the help of his hammer, loosens from the rock as many as he can bring up on his left arm; then striking with his foot, he ascends to the surface of the water. His companion then takes his place, and performs the same manœuvre. They sometimes use other methods of fishing for oysters: in those places which are not so deep, the fisherman is armed with a long pole, at the end of which is fixed a kind of pincers, the lower piece of which is steady while the other part moves; it is put in action by means of a string, or cord, fastened to its extremity. The fisherman pulls this cord to lay fast hold of the oyster which he has rested on the under part of his pincers; by this method he brings up in an easier manner a larger quantity than can be obtained by the first mentioned method. These oysters are of two different qualities, red and white; the first are bad, but the last are excellent. They find also, in the same place, a kind of shell-fish, called *dátes*, I suppose from the Greek word *dactylos*, finger, because of its form; they are separated with a hammer from the rocks, which appear almost on a level with the water.

On the second small island is built the Quarantine, a small edifice of two stories; the first of which is composed of store-rooms, shut with wooden gratings, to air the merchandise, which is there deposited. The second is divided into divers apartments for the accommodation of the passengers. A shabby hut serves as an apartment for the officers of health. This quarantine can receive but few goods, and a small number of people: those only are admitted who have letters of health.

The ships performing quarantine anchor near the island.

On the third island, which joins the land of Minorca by a small neck of sand, that is almost always covered by the waves, is the Lazaretto, where passengers and merchandises are only ad-

mitted, arriving from countries suspected of being attacked by the plague, or other contagious distempers.

It is about twenty years since this establishment was begun, on a very large scale, which promised to embrace every advantage that the situation of the port of Mahon offered. In 1804, there was only the fourth part of it built; nevertheless, there was already room for a considerable quantity of merchandize, and every convenience for a large number of passengers. The want of funds interrupted the work several times, and prevented this Lazaretto from being finished, which, had the original plan been entirely completed, would have been, without contradiction, one of the finest in the Mediterranean.

The English troops destined for the last expedition to Egypt, having joined at Minorca, lodged in this half-finished Lazaretto near three thousand men. They only added a prison to that part which was already built by the Spaniards.

This establishment certainly will help to draw the island of Minorca from its present languid state. Its commercial connections cannot be much increased, as it has no produce to give in exchange for those articles which they have from other countries. Nature seems to have made amends to this island for the want of local wealth, by ports, which being the resort of every commercial nation in the Mediterranean, must necessarily become to the Minorcans a source of ease and plenty.

Spain with all her maratime possessions, has not a single Lazaretto. Her ships coming from the Levant, or from America, when the yellow fever or plague rages, are obliged to perform quarantine at Marseilles, Leghorn, or Malta. The Lazaretto at Mahon saves a considerable expense to commerce and Spanish navigation: at any rate, it is more natural that these sums should be expended in a port belonging to the same kingdom. The establishment of this Lazaretto should have been accompanied by the circumstance of making the port free. It would have been the most certain means of preventing the loss to which they are still liable, by the clandestine introduction of foreign merchandize. This privilege would, at the same time, draw to Mahon the merchantmen who traffic on this coast. They might thus insensibly establish a commerce of re-exportation, of which this port would be the mart. As in good policy, the freedom and good of the people are the true riches of a kingdom, I do not think the government of Spain would have to regret the sacrifice of the duties which it deducts from the commerce of an island, whose connections and resources are so confined. The Minorcans desire this advantage, but their hopes are opposed by the rivalship of those Spanish ports which are contiguous; and more par-

ticularly by those of the Majorcans. These selfish neighbours, consulting only their own individual interest, forgetting the general convenience of the merchants of every nation, which was the chief object of the erection of the Lazaretto at Mahon, see nothing in this establishment but the cause of the destruction of their trade. Mahon, as a free port, would present advantages to navigators which might induce them to neglect those places to which they usually carry their goods, and which would then only receive them at second hand. Fear gave birth to the desire of seeing the port of Mahon always full. They insist on the specious argument, that that measure could alone insure them the peaceable possession of an island always regarded with a wishful eye by the powers of the North; alike jealous of extending their power in the Mediterranean. They calculate on the facility with which Minorca has successively been subjugated by the English and the French, and particularly by the first of them; for whom they tax the Mahonese with an attachment bordering on fanaticism. Would it be believed, that a conduct so fatal to the general good of Minorca, should be entertained even by a part of its inhabitants? Would it be believed, that the citizens of Ciutadella have had the folly to oppose the solicitations of the Mahonese for a benefit, the advantages of which they would have shared? Would it be believed, that proceedings as unpatriotic as absurd, were occasioned by jealousy that is really pitiable? that of antient Ciutadella, which, from its situation, has no consequence, being alarmed at the future prosperity of a rival, which would, by means of those advantages, become the capital of the island; a prerogative which they have constantly contended for.

Could vain and ridiculous declamations prevent the natural effects resulting from the excellence of its local situation, so well adapted to draw thither merchants, seamen, and strangers, would not this city inevitably become the residence of the principal officers of the government, and the seat of the different tribunals? This rivalship has long appeared to me to be a mere chimera, which I should never have believed to have existed, if I had not had repeated proofs of it from my own observation. However, demonstration will always, in the end, convince the most obstinate. The magistrates of Ciutadella are at last united to those of Mahon, and of other municipalities. They, in 1804, renewed their joint solicitation, to accelerate the finishing the Lazaret of Mahon. The arrival of divers vessels of the Spanish king, in this port, with crews attacked by the yellow fever, and obliged to perform quarantine, furnished them with a favourable occasion, by which they have wisely profited.

The ravages of the contagion which prevailed in Spain, have

induced the government to assign the necessary funds to complete this Lazaret; the indispensable necessity of which has been established. This establishment may now be used, but they should not any longer defer appointing the officers of health.

For want of proper care, I have seen two persons die in this Lazaretto, one of whom was a general officer, and this at the time when they had reason to fear the communication of the yellow fever. These deaths spread the alarm in the city; and it was with difficulty that the fears raised on the occasion were made to subside, and the suspicion removed, that the calamity was caused by the yellow fever. The fact was, that they had neglected sending any physician.

Opposite to the isle of the Lazaretto, on the left shore of the port, is the town of St. Charles, or the New Ravalle; it is entirely inhabited by seafaring men, who live by fishing on the coasts of the island. There is here nothing worthy of note, except the barracks, which are built with stone: the three sides of these barracks, with the common house, or hall, form a square, where a battalion can exercise. These barracks are on a larger plan, and better built, than those of the city. Here are two houses, or pavillions, for the officers. These barracks will contain three thousand foot-soldiers. The English built behind the common house, above the shore of the port, another part, of one story, and about two hundred feet in length, where two hundred men may be lodged.

The Ravalle is situated half way from Mahon to the castle of St. Charles; at present there only remains the place where was situated this fortress, formerly so famous under the name of St. Philip. At the time I visited the castle, in the month July, in the year 1804, there only remained the rubbish of the antient fortifications, and the mines hollowed under all the extent of the fort. In 1803, the blowing up of these mines were finished. I went through several of them, and they gave me a complete idea of the strength and extent of the works which composed the fort St. Philip. All these mines communicated one with another: several outlets, on the side next the sea, facilitated the entrance of reinforcements of troops, and of supplies of provisons and ammunition. The English, when they last invaded the island of Minorca, raised some works on the sea-side; but this was only a line properly fortified, to defend or obstruct the entrance of vessels into the port, and capable of sustaining a siege. I saw only twenty-four pieces of cannon, which were twenty-four pounders, mounted on their carriages. These formed two batteries on the side next the sea, the fire of which crosses that of a tower, called St. Phillipet, situated on the right of the port,

having above, a swivel with a large bore, and below, a battery of four or five pieces, level with the water's edge. I saw scattered here and there between some heaps of balls and bombs of different sizes, several pieces of artillery out of service. I found the several magazines entirely stripped, and even much damaged. The English, as soon as they received orders to give up the island of Minorca to the Spaniards, sold every thing, even to a small stock of fire-wood and coals, which the inhabitants of the Ravalle bought for almost nothing. The extent of the ground, on which was the ancient fort of St. Phillippe, is at least a league in circumference. The plan of the court of Spain seems to be to leave only a few simple batteries to protect the entrance of the port. They consist of 23 pieces of 18 and 24 pounders, the fire of which crosses that of the tower and battery of Phillipet, which are on the opposite shore. Of all the buildings enclosed in fort St. Phillippe, there remain only some small magazines in a bad state, which serve as guard-houses to the garrison. There is still to be seen a handsome quarter, which is inhabited, near the cove St. Stephen, whither the supplies are brought in, which arrive by sea.

From the batteries at St. Charles begins a carriage road, which goes through the whole length of the island, and ends at the city of Ciutadella. This road which is the only one in Minorca, is the work of Brigadier Cane; the memory of this English governor is preserved by an inscription engraved on the pedestal of an obelisk which stands on this road as you leave Malion.

At the time when the English came to invade Minorca in 1798, they made themselves sure of meeting very little resistance from the Spaniards; in fact, they effected their landing on a most inconvenient part of the coast, and where they could only get into the island by passing through a narrow neck of land, where the way was very difficult, particularly for the artillery: two hundred men would have been sufficient to oppose them from the heights which are on each side this passage. I have myself been on the spot; where I learnt that the English, whose number was scarcely three thousand, entered without the least resistance on the part of a garrison which consisted of near six thousand Spaniards, not a single musket was fired; the governor in the end capitulated.

From the facility with which the English became possessed of Minorca, some people, ready to attribute every misfortune, without reflection, to the defects or faults of the Government, seemed to doubt whether the loss of Minorca was occasioned more by the inactivity of the Governor and commanders of the

garrison, or by the consequences resulting from the machinations of the minister.

There is no doubt of the taking of Minorca, at this epoch, having been a *coup de main:* the English themselves confess, without dissimulation, that they were uneasy at the apparent destination of some troops which had joined in the island of Majorca. The intention of Spain seemed to be effectively to attempt, at that time, to repossess themselves of an island so important to their interests.

At the epoch of the restitution of Minorca to the Spaniards, according to the treaty of Amiens, M. de Vivés, the Governor general of the Balearic islands was ordered to take possession of this isle. The general, in his eagerness to execute his commission, thought it his duty to sacrifice to the interests of his sovereign, every consideration of decorum. He therefore embarked in a merchant ship, hired at the moment, and took with him about four hundred men of the garrison of Majorca, in some shabby boats. It would probably have been more in character, in the eyes of the English, if this general had made his appearance, attended only by a division of the marines, and the islanders would have been of the same opinion.

They also neglected, as soon as the treaty of peace was concluded, to send commissioners to protect with peculiar care every thing which belonged to the place, and the different posts in the island; from which neglect the arsenal and all the magazines were completely stripped. The English admiral, whose duty it was to give up the island, had already embarked all the artillery, and it was not without difficulty that the Spanish general obtained its restitution. The matter was negotiated before his departure by an officer who understood the English language, who was sent from Talma to remain there until the restitution of the island.

The arsenal of Mahon is built on the fourth of the small islands inclosed by the port; it is almost circular, situated high up, in the front of the Down with which it communicates by a wooden bridge on the side of the island of Minorca. This little isle is inclosed by walls with square towers. The arsenal contains several storehouses for cables, cordage, anchors, sails, masts, &c. in one word for every thing incidental to a naval armament. The marine commandant and the officers of the yards have apartments in the arsenal. The ships can careen with a great deal of ease at this place, and are laid down on a little mole, where the proper capsterns for the purpose are placed; the largest ships may go near enough to lay alongside of the sheer hulk to get in their masts, which vessel is placed at the end of

the mole, several boat houses, built on piles, are made use of to lay up the little armed cutters and other small vessels.

At a little distance from the arsenal, and upon the shore to the right of the port, are stocks for building ships. The arsenal of Mahon is at this day in the state in which it was left by the English when it was restored to the Spaniards; that is to say, in a state of the most complete destitution. A vessel which had suffered, whether by a storm or by an engagement, could not be supplied with the smallest articles for repair. They are obliged to wait for them from the arsenal at Carthagena, the nearest port. The port of Mahon ought, however, at least to be able to provide sails, jury-masts, cables, anchors, pitch, tar, &c. &c. to supply the principal wants of the service. It is not to be doubted, but that the Mahonese could avail themselves with facility of the greater part of the advantages which the port of Mahon presents; whether by its situation, its size, or the safety of its harbour. Mahon was formerly a military depot; the Mahonese were acknowledged as good ship builders; several of the best frigates in the service of Spain were launched from the dock-yards of Mahon. The works of the arsenal employed a great number of excellent mechanics, and afforded food to numerous families, plunged at this day in the greatest distress, from the want of employ, or who were compelled by necessity to expatriate themselves and pursue their habits of industry elsewhere. Every thing proves that it is as necessary, as it would be easy, to restore to Mahon its ancient activity.

Part of the arsenal has been used for the lodging of some of the garrison troops of the island. It would be an imposition on one's common sense, to believe that the neighbourhood of Carthagena occasions the neglect of port Mahon, which, in offering advantages, perhaps equal to the other, has likewise that of a most healthy climate.

The shores of the port Mahon form naturally a mole, which might be completed at small expence. There are built store-houses two stories high, the length of this mole, in which are deposited cables, masts, cordage, sails, &c. for the merchant ships. Here is also the office of health and the custom-house, neither of which offer any thing particular.

It is not a great many years since the largest ships of war could moor alongside the mole, so near as to place a ladder to the shore: insensibly the earth has drifted down thither by the rains. This inconvenience could be easily remedied by proper machines.

There are two different roads to go up to the town; the shortest is of an acclivity extremely fatiguing; in either road car-

riages cannot be made use of, and the merchandize is transported on the backs of mules: it would be difficult to remedy this inconvenience. The back part of the slaughter-houses is on the steepest of these mounts, and the blood and filth which is left, to run down, adds to the disagreeableness of the road, an infection which could be easily prevented.

On the heights of the hill which borders the right shore of the port, a little distance from the cape Mola, is erected the Signal Tower; objects may be seen from it a great way, and it gives the number and description of the ships seen off the coast, by balls hoisted at the four angles of the tower, and by proper flags. This tower has a communication with Mount Toro, situated a little farther towards the center of the island: at night the signals are by fire, which are very imperfect, and easy to be understood by an enemy. They cannot afford particular intelligence, and are far behind the telegraph in celerity, and these last were established by the English on different points of the island; the Spaniards, on its being restored, found them ready prepared to their hands: but, under the pretext of not knowing how to work them, they had them taken down and put into the stores, where they have remained to perish. In circumstances like the present, when precision, celerity, and secret signals, were so essential, I proposed the restoration of the telegraph. They made less objection to the difficulty of finding intelligent and trusty people for the service required, than to the expence, although, assuredly, of little consideration in comparison with the use and intelligence of the telegraph.

The cape of the Mola is very high land, which is connected to the island by a tongue of sand, which it would be easy to separate, if it were wished to isolate the cape. To the north is a little bay; it is surrounded on all sides by frightful and inaccessible precipices, with the exception of that part which looks to the port of Mahon. The cape of the Mola is very high on this side. The English masters of the island entertained the project of profiting by the advantages which the cape of Mola offered, to fortify it; but the war with Spain gave them too much occupation to allow them to do more than think of it.

In reading the Memoirs of the Cardinal de Retz, one is astonished at the brilliant description which he gives of the port of Mahon: "Port Mahon," says this prelate, "is the finest in the Mediterranean. The mouth of it is very narrow, and I do not think that two galleys could pass it in rowing. It becomes wider on a sudden, and forms an oblong bason, half a league in length. Lofty mountains surround it on every side, forming a theatre, which, from the number and height of the

trees with which they are covered, and from the streams which rush from them in prodigious abundance, display a thousand and a thousand pictures, which are, without exaggeration, more enchanting than the scenery of the Opera. These mountains, trees, and rocks, shelter the port from the wind; and, in times of the greatest storms, it is always as calm as the bason of a fountain, and as smooth as ice. Minorca also produces more meat, and other provisions necessary for supplying the shipping, than Majorca does of pomegranates, oranges, and lemons. In this delightful place are all sorts of game, and abundance of fish."

It is a pity that the Cardinal de Retz, continuing to give scope to his imagination, has not given the picture of the palaces, edifices, arsenals, and temples, of the city of Mahon. The happy Minorca would have doubtless been much more admired than those famous islands which were the delightful abodes of Circe and Calypso. One can only lament that so many writers have alike imposed on the credulity of the public. Of the immense number of descriptions in travels and voyages which are daily read, two thirds are the productions of the fanciful imagination of authors who have depicted, with great effrontery, the riches, manners, religions, costumes, and governments, of countries which they have never seen. We punish with justice, the man who, taking advantage of the ignorance of the buyer, sells tinsel for gold. The daring falseholds of authors appear to me equally deserving of reprehension.

The villages of Biniatap and Saint-Louis, depending on the district of Mahon, offer no interesting particulars to engage the notice of the traveller. On the feast of St. Louis there is, in the village of that name, a small fair; many of the inhabitants of Mahon and the environs, go thither on parties of pleasure.

CHAP. VI.

DISTRICT OF ALAYOR, MERCADAL, AND FERERIAS.

At the distance of eight or nine miles to the east of Mahon is Alayor, the chief place of the second district of the island. This territory is bounded to the W. S. W. by the sea, and to the E. by the district of Mahon; in other parts it is surrounded by the districts of Mercadal and Férérias. It is said to be eight miles in length and seven in breadth. The population, which is

supposed to amount to above 4000 souls, is distributed in the little town or borough of Alayor, and in about 112 farms, or country habitations. Alayor is situated on the left of the great road which goes from one end to the other of the island, and about a mile distant. This town, which is the next most considerable to Mahon and Ciutadella, is situated on a hill. The houses are well built; but the streets are narrow, crooked, and ill-paved, and very fatiguing to foot-passengers. The parish church of Alayor is of Gothic architecture, and appears to be very ancient. There are but few wells in Alayor, but there is no want of cisterns, the waters of which are fresh and wholesome; an advantage which is possessed in a superior degree by the whole of this district. I went to see the common-hall, which presented nothing remarkable: I saw there the portraits of the Counts Cifuentés and de Lannion; this last, who was lieutenant-general in the French army, died in the island of Minorca, of which he was governor, in the year 1762. He was buried in a chapel belonging to the parish of Mahon: an epitaph in the Latin language, engraved on black marble, is enchaced in the wall above the sepulchre of this general. This marble was placed there by order of Louis the Fifteenth, in memory of his services.

The first building which attracts the notice of the traveller on entering Alayor, is a church, built with hewn stone: it is of very simple architecture on the outside; the interior, like the other churches is ornamented with paintings and sculpture; among the ornaments of the latter description, are distinguished the works of a sculptor, who, without any master but his own natural genius, or other models than the imperfect works of his own countrymen, has sculptured several altars which have considerable merit. There are some statues of his in wood, as large as life; the proportions of which are exact, and the attitudes natural and easy; he was well acquainted with the different orders of architecture, and excelled in the sculpture of the capitals; his taste was besides excellent in the ornamental part, the fruit and foliage.

There is at Alayor a little well-constructed barrack, which can contain from 200 to 225 men, and is assuredly one of the best garrisons in the island.

The infirm and sickly are received into an hospital, which, though of no considerable size, is sufficient for that part of the population of Alayor. In general, the inhabitants of Minorca, and above all, those of Mahon, consider as a calamity and degradation, even in the greatest indigence, the necessity of seeking a refuge in an hospital, which presents them comforts of which

they are deprived in the bosoms of their families. It is less offensive to their delicacy to go into a prison, and though for some trivial faults only, be mingled with the greatest miscreants. I had occasion to witness this singularity in the character of the Minorcans: one of these islanders made a formal complaint of me to government on this subject. Thrown into a dungeon, he had fallen sick, and I used every endeavour to get him removed from so unhealthy a place to facilitate his cure. It was in agitation to remove him to the hospital of the town, where he might have received every attention necessary to his situation. This determination, which I was in hopes would be a consolation to the islander, threw him into an excess of grief, which would certainly have increased his malady if I had not given up the idea, and allowed him to return to his miserable habitation, to encounter the risk of wanting every thing, or of receiving only assistance from charity. To determine a Minorcan to go to the hospital, he must actually have no other place to go to. It is difficult to understand to what this ridiculous and fatal delicacy is owing; for these unfortunate beings often expose themselves to the risk of perishing for want, the victims of their prejudices. I can more easily conceive their aversion for domestic servitude, above all with strangers, setting aside the *amour propre*, which prevails generally in the character of islanders. They do not consider servitude as a situation that leads to any thing; and in that they are nearly right. A young man cannot hope to marry if he has not an independent business; whilst his fortune depends on the caprice of a master, it is at best but precarious; thus it is with difficulty they find a voluntary servant. This branch of industry is reserved to the women only; they are in general but bad domestics for strangers unused to the customs of the place.

The inhabitants of the country can scarcely be persuaded to call in a physician until the last extremity, and often not until it is too late. I should not blame this prejudice, if it proceeded from the fear of falling into the hands of a quack, who would bring them to the grave, and not from the apprehension of incurring an expence, the sparing of which might cost their lives. In reflecting on the situation of the country people, and on what concerns their health, an idea occurred to my mind, on which I have always dwelt with particular satisfaction. Why, I have said to myself, abandon entirely to nature the most valuable part of the people? Why should not the ministers, who have the care of the souls of their parishioners, occupy themselves with watching over their health; their functions leave them plenty of leisure, and they could employ themselves to advantage in ob-

taining the first principles of a science which would enable them to arrest the progress of distempers that become incurable only from neglect. Should these pastors blush at resembling the heroes of Greece, who, in the tumult of armies, cultivated and exercised the sublime arts of Esculapius and Machaon? Would a virtuous priest, pouring the balm of the Levite upon the wounds of his brother, be a less interesting picture than Achilles binding up, with his own triumphant hands, the wounds of the fallen hero at his side? Would Philoctetus, cured by the divine hand of Machaon, present a more touching scene than that of the father of a family receiving life from the pastor who gives him his blessing. Authors, who are as much esteemed for their zeal for the public good, as for their knowledge, have given in their works, bearing the seal of humanity, the first elements of medicine: it is there put within the reach of the most uninformed. These valuable sheets should be affixed to the breviary of the country.

Without the parish, there is a convent of Cordeliers, founded in 1623: the church is grand, and of beautiful proportion; the monastery is inclosed in a square court, and around is a cloister covered with a gallery. The library contains only works of Theology: it consists of a heap of scholastic reveries and legends. It is, however, what the monks are most eager to shew to strangers.

Travellers who stop at Alayor, without having some friend, or at least some acquaintance to offer them them the civilities of hospitality, take up their lodging, as in all other towns and villages of the island, at an inn, called Casa de Rey, which has very bad accommodation. There are only dirty, miserable, truckle beds; and the whole of the provisions consist of eggs, bad cheese, onions, execrable wine, and brown bread. These public houses, under the inspection of the bailiff, are generally kept by a Spaniard. The poor host, in a warm country, where provisions soon spoil, and where they are seldom troubled with visitors, only keeps in the house such victuals as he thinks he cannot lose by. It is great good luck if one meets with butcher's meat, fowls, or game, provided by the landlord for his family, of which he makes a voluntary sacrifice, and for which you pay very dear. And besides, at this place, as in all Spain, the innkeepers charge exorbitantly for every article; but here travellers ought to complain less of this than in those countries where the government provides for their accommodation. There scarcely arrives at a Spanish inn, in the course of a whole year, a number of travellers who spend sufficient to enable the innkeeper, from his profits, to pay his rent, and furnish maintenance

for himself and family; therefore impositions will be always practised, unfortunately for those who are compelled to submit to them.

I recollect an adventure of a Spanish officer, who was journeying through a province and put up at one of these inns. When the time of departure came, the host presented his bill: an ill-dressed ragout of meat, which was the only dish that had been set before the officer, was charged at sixteen piastres. It was useless for the traveller to remonstrate, it must be paid; though it amounted to almost all the money he had about him. The poor officer continued his journey, as desirous of having his revenge, as he was mortified at the trick played him. Two years afterwards, chance led him through the same village with a strong detachment of his regiment. He did not fail to recollect the place where he had been so shamefully treated. He visited this same inn with his company, and ordered a plentiful repast for all his people. The innkeeper, who had totally forgotten the officer and the adventure, set a profusion of victuals before them, and waited on them with the greatest attention. The refreshment over, the officer asked for the bill, but without looking at it, presented the host with about twenty pence. He remonstrated, and refused the money, but he was obliged to accept it; for the odds were now against him. "Take it;" said the officer, "I paid you two years ago for the dinner of to-day; and I pay you to-day for the dinner you set before me two years ago." The innkeeper recollected his guest, made a low bow with a very bad grace, and retired, muttering a thousand maledictions against the officer and his company.

In the vicinity of Alayor there are some clumps of trees; but the earth is so full of rough and pointed stones, that walking is truly painful. There is, however, one place whither one can go to breathe the air with pleasure; it was as inconvenient and rough, and consequently as little frequented as the rest of this small canton; but an English officer, who was much beloved by the soldiers, profited by their good-will, and had the ground levelled and cleared of the stones; it soon became covered with turf, and shadowed by oaks always green. This place presents an agreeable situation, where one is sheltered from the heat of the sun, and not incommoded by the humidity complained of in other countries.

About two miles from Alayor, on the road from Mahon to Ciutadella, is Mercadal, the chief place of a district, which is eleven or twelve miles in length, and eight or nine in breadth; bounded on the north by the sea, joining with the territory of Mahon to the east, and reaching to the west as far as the village

of Férérias, which belongs to the district. The entire population of this canton does not amount to more than two thousand souls.

Mercadal derives but little advantage from being the chief place of a district; and being situated in the center of the island, and on the most frequented road, the troops halt here as they go from Mahon to Ciutadella, or return from the last place. Travellers are not so well accommodated here as in the other villages of the island. The inn, or *Casa del Rey*, is miserable: it is generally customary for travellers to carry their provisions with them; and, for a trifling sum, they may obtain a reception in some private house.

Mercadal is not well built; the houses are very low, and resemble huts, which shew plainly the wretchedness of those who inhabit them. This village is situated in the most unwholesome part of the isle. The people are subject to very obstinate fevers, particularly during the heat of summer; their countenances shew the insalubrity of the air they breathe. One cannot behold the inhabitants of Mercadal without being struck with the difference which distinguishes them from the other islanders. They have something hard and forbidding in their physiognomy. This species of ugliness is more particularly remarkable in the women. Their ill health may be partly attributed to their drinking the well-water. There is, however, at the end of the village, a public cistern, which is filled by the rain waters. To procure a sufficient quantity, they have erected above the cistern a building, the roofs, or tops of which slope towards the interior part in the form of a funnel. This precaution does not prevent the reservoir from being often dry in summer, when it rains but very seldom. The streets of Mercadal are narrow, winding, and rough, being ill paved and uneven; nothing but being detained by bad weather would induce a traveller to stay any length of time in this village.

The parish church is the only public edifice: it was falling in ruins, and the devotion of the inhabitants would have erected a new temple, but the work was begun and was suspended for want of means.

About nine miles to the east of Mercadal, is the village Férérias. It contains nothing worth describing. It is distant about a gun shot from the great road, which runs through the island lengthways. This village is so ill built, and so poor, that it is a loss of time to turn out of the road to see it. However, there are quarters which can contain two hundred men, and there is a small house for the officers. The English, by whom these quarters were built, had a detachment always here. The Spaniards do not keep any troops at this place. The territory of

Férérias may be ten miles in length and four in breadth, in the widest part. It is poor, and less cultivated than any other spot of the island: to this last circumstance is owing the abundance of game in the canton. There are, however, to be found large tracts of land, which invite the cultivator to labour: the people, naturally indolent, are from day to day impoverished by the monks, who are maintained in idleness at their expence. If the poor inhabitant of this part of Minorca had any encouragement, he would soon rouse from the inactivity in which he languishes, and the island would become enriched by the cultivation of so much land, now lost to the country.

On leaving Mercadal, the traveller finds himself a little distance from, and almost at the foot of Mount Toro. This mountain, the highest in Minorca, shews its lofty head in the middle of the island, which it overlooks on every side: it is in the form of a sugar-loaf, on a base of several miles in circumference; the ascent is by a crooked path, and full of stones. This road is protected on the side where is the steepest declivity by a wall of rough stones, which they have left broken down in several places, and chiefly in the highest and most dangerous parts. I must acknowledge, that I could not help entertaining some sensations of fear when I looked from the precipice, down a perpendicular hollow, to a frightful depth; and where I was not more than a foot distant from the edge.

When arrived at the summit of the Mount Toro, the traveller is rewarded by the varied scenery of the whole island, with a most extensive prospect. The mountain serves as a beacon to navigators who make the land of Minorca, and who would enter its ports. The air respired on the top of Mount Toro is the most pure and wholesome. The whole of the summit is occupied by a convent of Augustins: this monastery is extensive, and is not wanting in accommodations. I went to see it, but there was not any thing very worthy of notice. The monk who accompanied me, did not fail, on our entrance into the church, to draw my attention to a sort of hollow grotto in the rock, set in the wall of one of the chapels, on which was roughly sculptured the figure of a bull, discovering, by butting with its horns, the image of the Virgin. My conductor gave me a long and tiresome history of this miracle, and assured me, in the most serious manner, that the mountain had thence derived its name. I took particular care not to attribute the origin of the word Toro in his presence to Tor, which, in

the Arabian language signifies elevation, certainly the most natural and probable etymology. I could not help, at the same time, entertaining the melancholy reflection, that the ministers of our religion too frequently impose on the credulity and simplicity of the people. I cast my eyes afterwards on a vast number of *ex-votos*, with which the chapel is covered. How much to be pitied are the unhappy beings who go daily to affix to these sacred walls the monuments of their faith, and the trophies of the superior craftiness of the monks. The most severe and painful pilgrimages are made to Mount Toro: I have seen men and even women make the journey with bare feet; I have even seen them carry their devotion so far, as to ascend the mountain on their knees reciting slowly their rosaries. Surely these practices are not less absurd with us, than the austerities of the Bonzes and the followers of Mahomet. The last do not pay for their absurdities, and the first never fail to lodge in the hands of the monks the tributes of their folly, in which consists all the difference.

The English had built a telegraph on the summit of Mount Toro; it communicated with all the others placed on the different points of the island. I am sometimes tempted to wish, from its advantageous position, that the convent of the Augustins was transformed into fortified barracks, where might be kept a sufficient force. From this post, overlooking the whole island, they could descend rapidly, in case of attack to any given point where the enemy might attempt a landing.

Six miles from Mount Toro, towards the north, is Port Fornels; it describes a large circle, of which the mouth is very narrow, and is to the north. This port is well sheltered, and can, in some parts of it, receive the largest vessels, but it requires a perfect knowledge of the soundings; there are shoals even in the middle of it: the difficulty of going in is still more increased by the squalls which come from the mountains and hills forming the passage. The entrance is defended by a small fort, built upon a point to the right of the harbour: it is square, constructed of free-stone, flanked with four bastions, and as many curtains, with a wretched moat, without exterior works. The rooms and magazines occupy the interior of the square. These buildings are vaulted, and above it formed the rampart. When the English took Minorca, there was a chapel in this fort. The barrack-masters being ordinarily, the suttlers of the detachment, changed it into a tavern. The fire of this fort is sup-

ported by that of another, constructed with numbered pieces of wood, and which was brought from London. It is erected on a small island at the end of the port, and opposite the mouth. This fort has two stories; the first serves to lodge the garrison, the second is cut in battlements, or rather port-holes for a battery of four pieces, of a large calibre Under this portable castle they have dug a subterraneous place, which serves as a magazine for powder; and there is also a cistern. Besides these two small forts, the batteries of which consist of nine pieces; there is, on a point at the mouth of the port on the left, a tower mounted with an eighteen pounder on a swivel: when I visited these two forts I found them absolutely defenceless, and only saw eight pieces of artillery, not mounted. The English had built on the shore of the Port Fornel, a small hospital, with from thirty to forty beds, quarters for about sixty men, and rooms for the commandant and officers. These edifices which were very much out of repair at the time the island was restored to the Spaniards, are now in appearance deserted. The garrison consists only of eight infantry and two gunners, commanded by a serjeant.

On the right shore of the port is a little village, or rather a hamlet inhabited by a few fishermen. The Port of Fornel might be rendered advantageous to commerce and navigation. In place of the huts of the fishermen, there might be built, in a short space of time, commodious dwellings and warehouses, where the merchant might deposit his goods, the islander his articles of trade, and the mariner his naval stores. The Port of Fornel might be made of utility, without being an injury to that of Mahon, which would always possess superior advantages.

To the north-west of Mercadal is Mount St. Agatha, it towers above a quantity of smaller hills which surround it. The scenery together presents a vast landscape of rocks, steep and barren: the traveller feels, at sight of the picture, at once admiration and terror; his reflections are led to the causes which have occasioned this desert state of a part of the island. In considering the assemblage of mountains, which appear one vast rock stript of verdure, his imagination recurs to the time when it was fertile, and enriched with trees and plants. The soil seems to have been, for ages, carried down by the successive rains in the plain below; perhaps violent earthquakes may have accelerated the phenomena. The entrails of the mountains are, in fact, to be seen through the chasms, and present only a heap of

rubbish, and of broken pieces of the rock. If nature, however, seem here to have spread forth her ruins, she displays herself with all her beauty on the opposite side; with what delightful emotion does the traveller turn his eye from a first scene, to the delightful landscape of fertile vallies, vineyards, and sloping hills in furrows made by the plough of the peaceful labourer, or offering their rich verdure to the bleating flocks.

A naturalist, in surveying the mountains which surround St. Agatha, will observe a peculiarity in the form of one of the lesser ones. It consists entirely of a naked rock divided into several beds heaped one on the other, and which are not parallel to the surface of the earth, but which form an angle of more than thirty degrees with the horizon. This singularity seems to contradict the opinion of philosophers, who pretend that the different particles of matter of which the earth is composed precipitate themselves in the manner water evaporates, according to their respective degrees of density, and that they have formed all over the globe regular and horizontal beds. May not the inclined direction of the stones which compose the little mountain in the neighbourhood of Saint Agatha be attributed to some change which has happened since the deluge?

It is not an easy matter to get to the summit of mount Agatha, the only way is by an ascent cut into the rock in the way of stairs, of which the steps are gigantic. The mules climb up, however loaded. If, however, these animals are used to ascend, sure footed as they are, it is prudent to walk on foot. These steps are, in several places, wet with the springs, which makes it very slippery and dangerous in many parts.

The summit of mount Agatha presents a little plain of about six acres. It is the residence of a shepherd and his family; he has a flock of sheep which are nourished by the small quantity of herbage to be found on the mountain and its environs. On the heights is built a small chapel, dedicated to Saint Agatha. It is a pilgrimage which the women are eager to make. The walls of this chapel are adorned with figures in wax, silver, and wood, the monuments of miraculous cures. Saint Agatha relieved the diseases of the breast. Every saint here, as elsewhere, is specially gifted by the credulity of the people and the address of the priests, for the cure of particular maladies.

The mount St. Agatha was formerly one of the most ancient military posts of the island. It is not to be doubted

that the Romans profited of so advantageous a position; the Moors, masters of Minorca, fortified mount St. Agatha, and there defended themselves a considerable time, after their countrymen, vanquished in different combats, were compelled to abandon all the other fortresses of the island. The ruins at present in existence of the ancient fortifications do not shew an epoch more remote than that of the dominion of the Moors. These fortifications were irregular as the ground on which they were raised. On the summit was a fort which could hold out after the outworks had been taken, and is composed of thick walls, flanked at regular distances by towers. In the lower part of the summit are dug two immense cisterns, which are yet entire. These reservoirs are constructed of a kind of cement moulded in a frame, and the inner part plaistered with a still finer sort. Armstrong, in his history of Minorca, says, that these reservoirs contain two millions one hundred and ninety thousand three hundred and eighty-four Paris pints. The calculation appears to me a little exaggerated.

It is not far from mount St. Agatha to Adaia, a farm which deserves particular notice. It is situated almost on the sea-shore of a little port to the east of mount Toro. It presents, on this side, a pleasant amphitheatre, whilst on the opposite, it is surrounded by mountains. The summit of these mountains is continually stript of soil carried away by the rains, the slime of which, deposited at the foot of the hills, produce in the vallies a prodigious fertility. The mountains protect the farm from the north wind; however, this part of the isle passes for unwholesome, and they attribute, with reason, the cause to the exhalations from the marshes formed by the rain waters which stagnate in the hollows beneath the mountains; it would be easy to remedy this inconvenience. It would not be more difficult, nor of less utility to repair, or rather to make the road from Mahon to this part of the country, from which it is only distant nine miles; although this journey is so short it is a painful, and even dangerous, in some places, particularly in the winter, when the weather is bad.

The gardens belonging to the farm of Adaia are very fertile, cultivated with care, and produce every kind of fruit and vegetables, the culture of which has been introduced. The vines, orange trees, and pomegranates succeed better than in any other part of the island. The Minorcans set a particular value on the water melons of Adaia. One of the great advantages of this farm is that of having in the

vicinity a very plentiful spring, which supplies at pleasure water for the gardens, and which helps not a little to give the fruits and vegetables of the farm of Adaia, an acknowledged superiority over those of the rest of the island, as in the other parts they are obliged to make use of well water, which makes the watering more laborious, and not so complete.

There are some well shaded promenades at Adaia, and where, during the summer heats, one breathes with pleasure a refreshing breeze from the sea, which is very pleasant and agreeable: Adaia has also the advantage of a small port, where the amusement of fishing may be had amidst landscapes of a beautifully varied perspective. The entrance is concealed by the intermediate lands towards the north. This port resembles a river; its banks are covered with evergreens, which bend over the water that reflects their foliage. Unfortunately, rocks and shallows make this port useless as a place of anchorage. Thus there are to be seen only small fishing boats in the harbour.

The situation and real utility of the farm of Adaia makes one regret that the proprietor, who is a man of taste, does not enjoy a fortune sufficient to afford the means to profit by the bounteous gifts of nature, the excellent qualities of the soil, and the advantage of plentiful springs of water: with such means he could presently transform the humble farm into a most delightful residence. A traveller might then indeed with truth make use of the words of cardinal de Retz, in his description of the port of Mahon. The stranger who is entertained at Adaia is charmed with the amenity and sweetness of disposition belonging to the character of the proprietor; in addition to which excellent qualities, he possesses a profound erudition with an enlightened mind, that, in the judgment of the intelligent, gives him the first rank among his fellow citizens.

A narrow Cape separates the port of Adaia from another small anchorage, called the Molin; where the English landed in the year 1798.

CHAP. VII.

DISTRICT OF CIUTADELLA.

At the western extremity of the island of Minorca is situated the town of Ciutadella. It is built a short distance from the sea shore. The port is small, and at the end shallow and marshy; it is a kind of narrow canal with rocks on each side; the entrance is difficult, and can only admit small vessels, and those are often much disabled at times when the cross winds blow. To the right of the entrance is a large round tower, built by the English, who placed there a telegraph. This tower is protected by a platform, on which are two large swivels. This sort of fort could at most only prevent the entrance of a privateer.

At a short distance is the church of St. Nicholas, held in great veneration among seafaring people, who go thither on pilgrimage. They have hung on the walls some shabby pictures, representing the dangers to which they have been exposed in the course of their voyages, and their deliverance from which perils, they piously attribute to the intercession of Saint Nicholas. This religious custom is very ancient, and may be traced to a very remote period. It was practised among the Greeks and Romans, but often, not content with hanging these representations in the temples, those who had made the vow, wore them suspended to their necks, and thus presented to the eyes of their fellow citizens the history of the dangers they had escaped. Horace alludes to this custom in the fifth ode of his first book:

> "Me tabula sacer
> Votiva paries indicat avida
> Suspendisse potenti
> Vestimenta maris deo."

On the shore to the left is another tower, on which they hoist the signals to the ships in the offing.

The city of Ciutadella is surrounded by a wall, part of which, on the side next the land, is the work of the Moors. It is very high, and has been well preserved for near six centuries. The more modern part consists of a rampart,

and several bastions and curtains built with hewn stone. Near the curtains the rampart is narrow; the bastions are broad; part of the moat which they had begun to dig in the rock is deep; there is also to be seen the beginning of the parapet of a covered way. These works, abandoned by the English, remain in an unfinished state. In cases of alarm, the garrison of Ciutadella, incapable of sustaining a siege, must necessarily fall back into fort St. Phillippe; but now that all the fortifications of the castle are entirely destroyed, the troops which might be found at Ciutadella, would be obliged to capitulate almost without resistance.

The wretched fortifications of this city were besides stripped of artillery, at the time when the English broke with Spain, and suddenly began hostilities. Their squadrons having sent their cruisers to the shores of Minorca, justified the fear that the island would be invaded. These fears were strengthened by the capture of the Castile regiment, sent from Barcelona to augment the forces of Minorca. The conveyance of the transports with the troops from Barcelona directly to Minorca exposed them to be taken; a surer way would have been that of Denia, in the kingdom of Valentia, making use of small boats only, which from the shore seeing the whole of the canal, with the island of Ivica, might have taken advantage of the first favourable moment for so short a course. They would have passed from Ivica to Majorca, and marched the troops from this port to Alcudia, from whence they could reach Ciutadella without danger. They have tried this route, and in spite of several English cruisers, the troops have successively arrived. At the time the Castile regiment was taken, there was in the island only the regiment of Toria, of about seven or eight hundred men capable of taking the field, and a battalion of a thousand or eleven hundred men, rangers of Catalonia, almost entirely composed of recruits drawn out of prisons, or sent into the regiment as vagabonds. The importance of the island of Minorca required that the garrison should be composed of well-disciplined troops, and not of soldiers whose inexperience made them of no service, and whose morals at the same time were not such as to inspire any degree of confidence. By the attention of the commander and officers to perfect this corps, it is now sufficiently disciplined, and is kept in very excellent condition. Pressed by the fear of the danger, they hasted to put Ciutadella, if not in a state to sustain a regular siege, at least capable of resistance in case of a coup de main, and to keep sufficient

force to be able to send succours to the other points of the island. They are repairing, though imperfectly the fortifications, and have placed in batteries on the bastions fourteen pieces of eighteen and twenty-four pounders, and two mortars. The garrison, which scarcely amounted to fifty men, was increased to four hundred. They had purposed to form a small fortified camp under the walls of Ciutadella, which would have protected the fire of the place. This camp was to serve as a retreat in case the troops should be obliged to go out of the city; and in this camp they proposed keeping the chief part of the stores and provisions. The oxen, sheep, horses, and mules designed to transport the baggage, and ammunition, and for the service of the artillery of the field. Happily this extravagant plan was not adopted. It was easy to judge that this camp would have been taken without any trouble, or surrounded and compelled by famine to capitulate.

Since the demolition of the famous Fort St. Phillipe, they seem to have entirely given up any endeavour to make defence in the island by walls and ramparts. The works raised by the English, at the entrance of the port of Mahon, were nothing buta fortified line; all the batteries of which could only serve to hinder or retard any entrance into the port. They had preserved some of the works, but the Spaniards have so destroyed them, that the little fortifications which remain are only a few batteries.

The defence of Minorca seems not to allow any other than an open campaign, or an affair of posts.

The island is covered almost every where with little mountains, or hills, forming between them narrow vallies, which run to the sea-shore. The small number of plains are intersected in every direction with enclosures of low walls of dry stone. At the time of hostilities, they had only one single road by which artillery could be conveyed. This road goes from one end of Minorca to the other; from the batteries of the port of Mahon as far as Ciutadella. The Spaniards have now made two others; the one from the city of Mahon, which reaches beyond the village St. Louis, near the sea-shore, eastward; the other beginning at the same point, and ending at the small bay of Mesquila, near Cape Mola.

The shores of the island form a great number of small bays, or creeks, where a landing might be effected; but to get into the interior of Minorca, there are many difficult ways and narrow passages, where the enemy would easily

be stopt by the troops occupying the heights. The first and most essential disposition for the defence of Minorca, is to place the troops in the most favourable situation to move with expedition to those parts of the island where the enemy might threaten a landing. This situation is the center of the island. The troops might be placed on Monnt Toro, at Férérias, Mercadal and Alayor. Mount St. Agatha is also a post of importance, and they would be near enough to prevent it falling into the hands of the enemy, if they should succeed in landing, and gaining ground on this side of the island. In the course of the month of May 1805, the Minorcans were called to arms, on an occasion which served to prove the truth of this observation, and the necessity of using telegraphs in the room of the defective signals now employed. One morning a signal was made on the coast of the island, a short distance from Ciutadella, of a squadron being in the offing, the manœuvres of which indicated an attempt. The intelligence, conveyed by an order sent from Ciutadella, did not arrive till five o'clock in the evening. All the garrison received orders to hold themselves in readiness to march. About four hundred men of the regiment of Soria departed as soon as possible for Ciutadella, where there was at that time only fifty men. From Mahon to is reckoned at least eight long leagues: before these troops could have possibly arrived, there is no doubt, but that the enemy would have had time to land and possess themselves of posts, from which it would have been very difficult to dislodge them with troops fatigued by a long and painful march.

With the exception of three or four hundred men, of which number the garrison of Ciutadella consists, fifty or sixty at the Port Fornels, and some small detachments of three or four men on different points of the island, the whole of the united force of Minorca are centered at Mahon, the Ravalle, and the batteries of the port; that is to say, at one of the extremities of the island. There also are all the field artillery, with all the ammunition and provsions.

The total force of the island, at the time of my departure, consisted of 3,100 foot soldiers of the line, 1,500 rangers, 500 engineers and miners, and 90 horse soldiers, in all 5,190 men. The daily service, including the garrisons of Ciutadella and Fornels, and the small detachments, employs about 700 men; the remaining 4,390, from which may yet be deducted 300, besides those who are sick, prisoners, and recruits, make the whole disposable force of

the country 4,090 men. The troops are good and well disciplined.

Cavalry cannot be employed to advantage in a country where there are no plains. Thus the service of the horse soldiers is reduced to carrying orders to the several posts of the island, and conveying the correspondence when the couriers, coming from Majorca and the continent, are obliged to go into any other port than that of Mahon. However, they have been forced to refurnish this cavalry with horses by a requisition from those of the islanders, as the horses they had were unfit for service.

The island is sufficiently provided with artillery for the ramparts and the field. They have added a certain number of mules, as well to convey the ammunition as for the service of the artillery, in which they are alternately exercised. Minorca has received from Spain a large quantity of warlike stores. The magazines are furnished with spare arms and tents to encamp the troops. I perceived, with regret, that they neglected to make them previously acquainted with the interior, and the different posts to be occupied in case the enemy should succeed in advancing into the island. Once only the governor ordered out the garrison to be reviewed; the troops took the heights in the vicinity of the bay of Mesquita; they placed themselves in order of battle, and some platoon firing comprised the whole of their manœuves. This exercise, or parade, was performed in the presence of the governor's wife and some other ladies. I thought that I was rather a spectator of some holiday procession than of a military evolution.

The government of Minorca, and consequently the preservation of this important island, is confided to a brigadier of his Majesty's forces. The present commander joins to a high sense of honour, virtues and social qualities, which cannot be too highly esteemed. It is to be wished that this governor was invested with an authority which would place him out of the power of interferences and oppositions from the different administrations, which hinder and often destroy the force of his operations.

There are four different quarters to lodge the troops at Ciutadella: the first is built near the gate of Majorca, and is bomb proof; it can contain three hundred foot soldiers: the second, on the parade can lodge an hundred and fifty men: the third, a small distance removed, holds an hundred and twenty, and the fourth, thirty cavalry.

There is no hospital but that of the city, which can re-

ceive as many as two hundred sick. But at Ciutadella, and at Mahon there are houses large enough, and the convents, which in time of need could be made use of to lodge the troops, and as hospitals and magazines. The English did not fail to make use of these resources when the island of Minorca was the place of rendezvous, and for taking in fresh provisions for their squadrons in the Mediterranean.

The mansion of the governor of Ciutadella is built at the foot of a bastion which overlooks the town. It is large enough, but very irregular. The kitchen and other offices are level with the ground floor. The first story joins and is on a level with the ramparts, which form an agreeable promenade, from whence may be seen part of the island, a large extent of sea, and the island of Majorca, about ten leagues distant. The interior of this house is ill contrived, and at the time I saw it, was almost without furniture. There is a garden belonging to it on one side of the parade surrounded with high walls; this garden has very little care bestowed upon it, particularly now the government of Ciutadella is given to an officer of subaltern rank, who certainly has not the means of affording the necessary expence which a proper cultivation would require. There is also a chapel in this hotel, but it is not used.

The principal church of Ciutadella, which is at the same time the cathedral of the island, is built in the center of the city; it is large, and has a square tower, terminated by a spire of hewn stone. At a distance this octagon steeple has a pleasing effect in the perspective of Ciutadella. It is said that this church was built near the time that Alphonso, the king of Arragon made the conquest of the island, in the year 1287. There was a cathedral church in the year 418, under the emperor Honorius, when Ciutadella (at that time called Jamnon, from the name of a Carthagenian general, who was said to be the founder) was the see of St. Severus, the bishop of Minorca. The present church was probably built on the foundation of the first. It would be difficult to say precisely at what epoch: above the gate of the vestibule is the following inscription, dated 1360.

ACI. IHU. F. N. ET. DE. CORSA.
PREVERA. QUI. FO. OFECIAL.
DE. MANORCA. LO QUAL.
PASSA. DE. SOA. DIDA.
AYI. DE JOLIOL. LAND.
MCCCLX. DOC. DEO. LAIA.

This epitaph informs us, that an officer employed at Minorca, whose name was John, a native of Corsica, was interred in this church the 11th of July 1360. This monument, in other respects little interesting, serves at least to mark an epoch of the antiquity of the cathedral of Ciutadella. On the south side of the church are a considerable number of sculptures cut in the rock. There are many others of the same kind without the walls of the city: these memorials seem to me to belong to the time of the Moors; as the christians have for a long time been accustomed to deposit their dead in the churches, by which it appears that the infidels had the advantage of us in both reason and prudence. The Christian custom, which has often been the cause of fatal effects, is continued here through the obstinate blindness of the faithful. How then can we reproach those who have preceded us, when we ourselves in the nineteenth century persist in the practice of the same absurdities? The temple where the islanders go to offer up their prayers and praises to the Almighty, is changed into a place infected with cadaverous exhalations. But the good Minorcans are persuaded, that their bodies being deposited at the foot of an altar, assures, or at least facilitates, the entrance of their souls into the abodes of the blessed. The kinsfolk and friends, who come to water with their tears the stones which cover these graves, carry away but too often the seeds of a distemper, which soon hastens them to the same sepulchre. How many examples of sudden death may be imputed to the opening of these pestilential repositories of the dead. The evidence of experience has not yet prevailed over ridiculous custom and mistaken credulity. Has the poor man, to whom fortune has denied the means of depositing his remains in the sanctuary, less right to hope for the mercy of his God, than the rich one covered with a marble monument, which merely transmits to posterity his name and the date of his departure from this life? Will the great man, who, under gilded roofs, has passed his days, spun out by the hand of pleasure, days which has produced only to his fellow-creatures the sweat of the brow and unavailing tears, will he appear before his judge with more confidence than the unfortunate being who has eaten the bread of bitterness in the humble hut which served to shelter him from the seasons? Forgive me reflections so foreign to my subject, and which would come better from other pens. Experience has, however, dictated regulations which prohibit interment in the churches; but what laws

will not fanaticism and money elude; I have witnessed a striking instance of this truth. In a convent at Mahon, the monks sell to the vanity as well as to the devotion of some persons, the vaults appropriated to themselves in the cloisters. These friars have thus eluded a wholesome law, by a speculation as revolting to decency as to propriety; and they continue to heap carcase on carcase in their church.

The ancients caused their dead to be buried without the walls of their cities, and in the fields; they even burnt the bodies and preserved only the ashes. It is not among the ruins of the temples that the sepulchres are still to be seen: these tombs, erected by the hand of piety and of gratitude, whereon are read the funereal inscriptions, which bring to our recollection the heroes of antiquity, and those great men who carried to the tomb the regret of their fellow citizens; "but these were pagans," is all the answer that is to be got from these monks and fanatics.

The Augustins have a convent near to the port of Mahon; the edifice is grand, and the church is ornamented with a dome; for the rest, there is nothing remarkable. These monks maintain sometimes public disputations, the subject generally as absurd as the jargon is barbarous; for example, "Did matter exist before form, or form before matter." This is one of the important questions they most gravely discuss, and their conclusions are just as wise, *Tua propositio non est vera, ergo est falsa;* what miserable logic is this!

Beyond the port of Mahon is another monastery, of the order of Saint Anthony. These monks are rich; their church is small, but handsomely ornamented. The garden is the greatest curiosity, as it is cultivated in the quarry which supplied the stones with which the convent is built.

The Franciscans have also a monastery in the interior of the town, near the parade. The building is large, but irregular. These monks occupy themselves in the service of the public; they have an apothecary's shop, where they sell to the people those drugs of which they stand in need, and a school for the instruction of children.

At Ciutadella is a convent of nuns of St. Claire, who pass the tedious hours in weeping for their sins; probably the sin of quitting the world, is that which is most seriously repented by many of these virgins.

The city of Ciutadella contains about seven hundred houses; some of them are very handsome, but in general the streets are narrow, crooked, and badly paved. There

are piazzas on each side of the principal street, which, with the cloisters of the convents, serve for promenades when the weather will not permit walking out of the city. The district of Ciutadella may be about eleven miles in length, and five or six in breadth. It contains nearly a hundred and forty farms, and the total population does not exceed eight thousand persons. In Ciutadella is the residence of the bishop of Minorca, and the houses of most of the nobility of the country, which are the only remains of its former pre-eminence.

In the environs, to the north of Ciutadella are some well cultivated gardens, which produce in abundance all sorts of fruit and vegetables.

In the vicinity of Ciutadella is a very curious grotto, which is generally visited by travellers. Bomare mentions it in his Dictionary of Natural History. It is situated two miles to the south of the city. This grotto is hollowed by nature in the rock; the entrance is narrow and difficult, but it widens at once as you descend, and by the light of flambeaux may be discovered other smaller grottos, which all communicate with the large one. There distils from the roof of these grottos a water, which is so impregnated with vitrifying matter, that it forms an infinite number of stalactites of the colour of brown sugar-candy, not very transparent. These petrifactions have a thousand different forms. There are some not thicker than the quill of a pen, while others are of considerable size. The whole forms a number of columns which seem to support the vaulted roof of the grotto. One may observe the gradation and progress of these petrifications; in many places are seen little capitals which descend from the roof, as if to join those bases which rise from the ground underneath, as the water petrifies which falls from the roof in other places; the spaces between the capitals and the bases are filled by the shafts of the columns; some of which are regular enough, others very imperfect, and seem to be of the gothic order: in short, the whole forms an enormous mass of large and small pillars, adhering one to the other. The floor of the cavern is covered with petrified matter of considerable thickness; this curious grotto is called "*La Cova Perella.*"

There is a neighbouring cavern containing a kind of lake of salt water, which makes it probable, that it has some communication with the sea.

On the way to these caverns, there is found on the seashore, among the sand, a great quantity of small pieces of

red coral. The fishermen frequenly draw up with their nets whole branches of white coral, but hardly ever any red. The fragments which are found on the shore are probably brought thither by the waves, at those times when the sea is rough and the wind westerly.

The Hippocampus, which the natives call the sea-horse, is very commonly found here. The *Stella marina arborescens*, is also often found, but much damaged by beating against the rocks.

The land in this part is barren and without any of the usual productions of cultivation, but it abounds in fossils and shells.

CHAP. VIII.

CLIMATE, QUALITIES, AND PRODUCTIONS OF THE LANDS AND COASTS OF THE ISLAND OF MINORCA.

THE climate of the island of Minorca is not so mild and temperate as that of the neighbouring islands. Situated at the mouth of the gulph of Leon, Minorca is not like Majorca sheltered by the height of the mountains; this island consequently experiences all the severity of the north winds, which frequently blow with great violence. On the northern shores of the island the power of these winds may be observed, the shores are broken and uneven in all that part of the isle. The trees and plants do not thrive, and all bend or incline towards the south. In the winter, although snow or ice is rarely seen, yet the cold is nevertheless severe, so that it is necessary to have fire in the apartments, and to be warmly clothed. The autumn is the rainy season, in which are always successive and abundant rains. During the spring the air is always pure and temperate, but the heats of summer are insupportably sultry.

The land or soil of Minorca is of several kinds, that of the mountains and hills is blackish, fine, light, and very fertile, though but thinly spread on the surface of the rock. It is mixed with a great quantity of sand, which makes the labour easier to the cultivator. The soil on the plains is not so fertile as that of the mountains, it is cold and clayey, and not good either for pasture or agriculture. Nevertheless it

produces a quantity of different sorts of herbage, which would be very good food for cattle, if they were not mixed with other sorts which are acid, and which they will not eat. Among these plants there are some which might interest the curiosity and researches of a botanist. The vallies are fertilized by the quantity of earth which is washed from the surrounding mountains by the rains, but these are impoverished in the same proportion. On some of these mountains they have raised banks or little walls of dry stones to support the lands, leaving a free course for the water. This method preserves their fertility. In the interior of the island, on digging into the rock, the earth is found mixed with a great quantity of flints and stones. The islanders make use of them to build little walls which form an infinite number of enclosures with which the island is intersected in every direction.

In the districts of Alayor and Férérias there are some small woods of pines and green oaks, but they are stunted in growth and do not stand very thick.

The olives, oranges, lemons, and pomegranates succeed very well, and the culture of them requires but little care or labour.

There is also found in the island a kind of clay of a grey colour, which on being baked, or rather burnt, becomes of a light brown; the inhabitants make crockery of it, such as cups, jugs, and tiles. In some places there is a kind of clay which is blue and yellow, of which the Minorcans make no use.

The kind of plaister called guysch, which I have already mentioned, is common in many places in the island; but the Minorcans prefer that which is brought from Majorca. The plaister, which they distinguish by the name of *perelle*, is whiter and more brittle and shining: they use it to clarify their wines.

Rock crystal is rare at Minorca; but in the district of Alayor they very commonly find that sort of Muscovy glass, which encrusts the plants and vegetables.

In the district of Alayor there is a pond of stagnant water nearly a mile in length; it is about three hundred paces from the sea. The space between forms a sandy beach, which is sometimes entirely covered with the waves. Near the shore is a small eminence, where most of the plants are encrusted with a sandy substance of some thickness, the outside of which is greyish and brittle, and the internal part white, and as hard as flint. The ground is strewed with a

quantity of these encrustations, the plants which they encrusted having been separated, or having perished or dissolved by time.

In digging the earth for stone the Minorcans discover veins as hard as flint, which they are obliged to blow up with gunpowder. The strata of this hard stone are generally a foot in thickness, and the deeper they dig the harder it becomes, and is less mixed with shells and other substances, which are on the surface. As the stone is porous and easily penetrated by the water, they expose it to the air some time before they make use of it.

Lime stone is common at Minorca; it is of a light grey colour, very hard and shining; where it has been recently broken, it contains many echinites and other remains of the deluge, particularly in the upper strata. It is generally found in detached pieces dispersed in the fields, and when these fragments are neither too many nor too large, far from injuring the vegetation of the corn, it assists it by the heat which it imparts.

There is a quantity of slate at Minorca, particularly on the side of Cape Mola, which would facilitate the conveyance of it, if the Minorcans did not prefer the use of tiles. This slate is smooth, shining, and of a bluish colour, with veins of white. It has a number of perpendicular fissures, which divide it into masses of a convenient size for use.

Marble of different qualities is found at Minorca; but the islanders take no account of it.

There is neither fire-stone nor chalk in the island; the Minorcans have the first from other countries, and instead of the last they adopt the marking stone from Naples, which taylors use, but bricklayers and carpenters make use of a black or red stone to mark their work.

In most places of the island iron ore is found on the surface of the earth, in pieces of six or eight inches diameter. The Minorcans make not the least use of it, whether because it is not fit to make iron alone, or that they are ignorant what use to make of it, or whether the want of wood compels them to give up this branch of industry.

There are also lead mines at Minorca; but working them does not appear likely to defray the necessary expences.

Sea shells are often found in the earth, and even petrified fish. The Minorcans give the name of glossopetres to some teeth of large fish, such as sharks; they are commonly found in the quarries.

It is not rare to find some of the stones called toad-stones. The islanders value them much, and set them in rings and buttons.

There are also many kinds of fossils and petrifactions. The island of Minorca produces variety of vegetables for the table, and abundance of physical herbs and plants.

Wheat and barley are the only sorts of grain which are sown in the island, but the produce is not sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants; they have a small quantity of Turkish corn, which is cultivated in the environs of the farms. The harvest generally begins in the middle of June. When the corn is ripening, the fields are watched by young boys and girls, who by hallooing, or by the noise they make by beating their hand with slit reeds, endeavour to frighten away the small birds, and prevent them eating the corn. This was a custom in the time of the Romans: Virgil, in his first book of the Georgics, makes it a precept: *Ei sonitu terribis aves.* The general produce is six for one, or at most, nine for one, which is reckoned an abundant harvest. They tread out the corn in places prepared for that purpose, with horses or mules two or four abreast. It is then winnowed: they carefully gather up the straw; cut it very small, and mix it with a little barley; this serves as food for horses, mules, and asses.

To manure the land they use the dung and litter of the cattle, mixed with the sweepings of the houses.

The produce of wine, both red and white, is more than sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants; it is of a very good quality. I have drunk of five or six years old, some which equalled best Burgundy wines: hence they cultivate the vine with peculiar care.

The olive tree flourishes in every part of the island, and the husbandman leaves it almost entirely to the care of nature. The islanders obtain but little oil from their olives, they pretend that they are dried up by the north winds; they preserve them for use, but the preparation is so defective that a stranger can never eat them with any pleasure.

The Minorcans have plenty of several sorts of fruit; oranges, lemons, and pomegranates arrive to great perfection, and some sorts of apples, which are very good; they have excellent pears both in summer and winter. The island also produces fig-trees, the fruit is very good. The red mulberry-tree is the only one which is cultivated, but the white would thrive equally well. Walnuts and chesnuts are very scarce.

There are some palm-trees, but they are only in use as

being ornamental, the fruit never comes to any degree of perfection.

They have roots and vegetables in abundance of every kind, the beans, peas, onions, kidney beans, and cauliflowers, are excellent; the broccoli is also very good, as are the endive, pompions, and tomatoes. The spinach, carrots, and parsnips have but little flavour, the turnips are hard and stringy, and are but seldom used, the lettuces are tasteless, they generally mix them with cresses. The dandelion is very common in the spring, but it has an unpleasant bitterness. The Minorcans use an amazing quantity of pepper.

The water melons, which are in season at the end of June, when the heat is most powerful, are succulent and very refreshing; and whatever quantity is eaten, they very seldom occasion any disagreeable sensation or illness: at every turn you meet children sucking a slice of melon; these melons last till the middle of October.

The leeks of Minorca are much esteemed, and there is an abundance of thyme, hyssop, marjoram, sage, parsley, savoury, marygold, mint, beet, and sorrel; this last is not much in use among the Minorcans. Their cucumbers are larger and better than ours. They have only wild asparagus, which has a disagreeable taste. The rosemary and wormwood grows naturally among the rocks, there are also quantities of sea fennel and other medicinal herbs.

Almost all the old walls are covered with caper trees, and capers seasoned with vinegar and salt, are much used in the kitchens of the Minorcans.

It is in vain to expect or look for any taste or regularity in the gardens, utility alone is attended to, and no part is devoted to pleasure or beauty.

The honey of Minorca is in great esteem, but the quantity is not sufficient to make it an article of commerce, the inhabitants preserve the surplus of their own consumption, to send as presents to their distant friends.

The island supports near sixteen hundred beasts of burden, horses, mules, and asses.

The number of horned cattle is about six or seven thousand.

The flocks of sheep, goats, &c. amount to forty or forty-five thousand, besides ten thousand swine.

The number of horses is not great, and the inhabitants do not endeavour to increase them, as their feed is more

expensive, and their service less than that of the mules and asses, which are for this reason preferred.

The mules are strong and will feed on any thing they find in their way, and may be kept in good condition with very little care. These animals are very sure footed, and possess surprizing sagacity. One may see them sometimes with a rider on their backs, gallop up a steep mountain, or run along the edge of a precipice. They are mostly very vicious; and often chuse the worst roads, and scrub the walls as they go with the legs of the rider; whom, if by chance, he let loose the bridle or stirrups, they make every effort to throw from their backs. These animals will sometimes live forty years.

The asses are also very strong, and serve equally well to ride as to carry loads. It is not unusual to meet parties of men and women riding on asses, harnessed with great neatness, I had almost said splendour.

The oxen and cows are small and lean, which is occasioned by the want of pasturage, and the custom of leaving them continually in the fields exposed to the weather. Cows' milk is scarce and almost all used for cheese, which is very good. Some few individuals make a small quantity of butter, but it is entirely for their own use.

The sheep and goats are likewise small and lean, the goats' milk is in general use. The mutton is not very good.

The swine are very large and very fat, they are kept, during the autumn, in the woods, where they feed on the acorns, afterwards they are confined and fed on barley. Pork is in the same esteem with the Minorcans as with the Majorcans.

There are no beasts of prey in Minorca.

Hares are very scarce, but there are great plenty of rabbits. There are a great number of hedgehogs, which the Spaniards eat without any dislike. I have also seen some land tortoises.

The lizards are in swarms; when the weather is fine the walls are covered with them, and they often make their way into the apartments.

The adder and viper are the only kind of serpents which are found in the island, but there are scorpions whose sting is dangerous; they are generally found in the wood piles.

The centipedes appear the moment the candles are lighted, and make their retreat at the break of day; it is said their sting is venomous like the scorpions. The Minorcans always keep in the house vials of oil, in which some of

these creatures are infused, they believe this oil to be a specific.

There are many sorts of spiders, whose bite is said to be venomous.

Among the birds there is no particularity. There are a few eagles who build their nests in the most inaccessible places in the mountains. There are also some falcons and a great number of owls. The swallows and martins are numerous in summer. Red partridges are plenty, they are excellent till after the harvest, but at that time they begin to eat the wild garlic, and the berry of the mastic tree, which gives them a disagreeable flavour. The quails are very fat in the hunting season. The thrush is excellent. The blackbird, starling, lark, and particularly the sparrow, are very common.

The wild pigeons make their nests in the hollow places of the rocks, the young ones are only eaten; there are also a number of black and white ring-doves. Woodcocks, snipes, wild ducks, and teal, are very plenty through the whole of the winter.

The coasts of Minorca abound with fish of different qualities. The markets are well supplied the year round. Fish is one of the chief articles of the food of the Minorcans, who in general eat but little butchers' meat.

The gold fish is excellent, and very common.

During the summer the coasts swarm with anchovies; this abundance of a kind of fish, which in other places produce an amazing profit, might become a great article of exportation, if the Minorcans knew, or were willing to learn, the simple art of salting them; but they content themselves with eating these fish fresh. Plaice, soals, barbel, flounders, and turbot, are not in such plenty; but lampreys, congers, and eels abound, and are excellent.

In summer, there are a considerable number of sardinias, which the islanders eat fresh; they are unacquainted with the method of salting them.

The ponds contain excellent mullet of an extraordinary size; the Minorcans salt the spawn of the female, and afterwards dry them; this preparation, which they call *botargo*, they eat to create an appetite. The rock-fish, which is found among the rocks on the coast, particularly at the Port of Mahon, has a delicate flavour: this fish is seldom above six or eight inches in length, the body is striped with blue, red, and green, in beautiful shades. The cuttle-fish abounds on the shores of Minorca; the bones are used by

the goldsmiths and apothecaries; the black it affords, which may be easily diluted in water, might be used instead of bistre, and even in the place of China ink.

Among the shell-fish, the cray-fish is distingushed for its size and flavour; shrimps and crabs are rather scarce. The fish called Bernard the hermit, is one of those which is most esteemed. The sea hedge-hog is the kind of shell-fish most frequently found; it abounds on the rocks, and the Minorcans eat it in astonishing quantities. Of small shells, the most common are muscles, cockles, the Conchæ veneris, and the Nerita, a species of oyster. The Hantulus is often found, but its shell is so fine that it often breaks at the touch. The Pinna magna is not scarce: it has within its shell the same brilliancy as mother of pearl, but it is on the outside rough and covered with prickles. The Pinna parva is also found here, the surface of which is very shining. I have already mentioned the star-fish and oysters.

CHAP. IX.

SITUATION, EXTENT, COAST, AND ANCHORAGE OF THE PITHIUSIAN ISLES.

THE isle of Ivica is the most considerable of the Pithiuses, and is in most parts high, full of mountains and hillocks of a pleasing appearance, interspersed with beautiful and fertile vallies.

The principal ports are those of Ivica to the S. E. of the island, and Porto Magno, or Saint Anthony, to the N. W.

There are innumerable small bays, roadsteads, and lesser isles on the coasts of the Pithiuses; a description of which would be of but little interest to the general reader, or indeed to any but those who might desire to have a knowledge of the pilotage.

The isle of Formentera is situated to the south of that of Ivica, from which it is separated by a strait of two miles and a half in width. This island is not of any elevation; it is nearly eght miles in length from east to west, and about as many in width from north to south. It is in latitude 38° 40′ 30″ and in longitude 7° 35′ 27″ east, from the Royal Observatory at Cadiz.

The remarkable capes and points of Formentera are Espalmader, Prima, and La Mola, which form the east coast of the island, and the points Anguila, Gavina, and Capo Berberra.

Ivica is the largest and best peopled of the Pithiusian Isles, and was called by the ancients Ebusus. It runs N. E. and S. W. being in the form of a pentagon; its greatest extent is seven leagues, by three and a half in width; Ivica is to the north of Formentera two long miles. The latitude of Ivica is 38° 53′ 16″ north, and 7° 38′ 12″ east, from the Royal Observatory at Cadiz.

This island is divided into five parts, which the inhabitants call quartons, that is to say La Plaine de la Ville, Saint Eulalio, Balanzat, Pormany, and the Salines, or salt-pits.

La Plaine de la Ville is the principal quarter, and has Ivica for its capital, which is at the same time the see of a bishop. The other quartons surround this, the territory of which occupies a league and a half; Ivica is situated to the south, under the cannon of a small fortress, built on a hill, of the time of Charles the Fifth, and repaired in the reign of Ferdinand the Sixth. This fortress is of little importance; the works of which it is composed are nothing more than some bastions and covert ways, without any moat. The interior contains about two hundred houses, inhabited by nearly nine hundred islanders; the cathedral, six churches, a convent, and barracks for two battalions. At the sallyport of the fortress to the east, is the suburb, or the aravalle, of about four hundred and twenty houses, and from seventeen to eighteen hundred inhabitants.

The most esteemed of the ancient authors are divided in their opinions as to the foundation of Ivica, some of them attribute it to the Phœnicians, but the greater part of them to the Carthagenians, and place that epoch about one hundred and seventy years after the foundation of Carthage. The sterility of the soil obtained it the name of Ebusus, which, in the punic tongue, signifies unfruitful.

The Port of Ivica is the principal one of the island; it is large, commodious, and sheltered on every side. The little island of Formentera, which is close to it, defends it against the south-west and southern winds. The island Plane, near the coast, protects it from the east and south-east, and the heights of the hills which surround it, shelter it from every other.

The anchorage has good holding ground, but it is neces-

sary to clear the bottom, which fills up insensibly, and is much hurt by the quantities of ballast thrown from the vessels that come to take salt. This abuse will in time destroy the anchorage at Ivica. The bottom is sandy, and, with the greatest ease, the port might be made one of the best in the Mediterranean.

Besides the capital, this quarton contains about two hundred habitations, forming different small hamlets, of which the population may be nine hundred souls. Ivica furnishes for its defence a company of 120 men, commanded by a captain.

The road of Ivica is delightfully pleasant, and is bordered on each side with vineyards and gardens.

The coasts of this quarton begins at Cape Andreus, and terminates with the Bay Quifeu.

The district of Saint Eulalie comprises Ivica and Balanzat, and is four leagues in extent. The number of houses is at least seven hundred, separated one from the other, and not forming a town or village. There are two churches. The population amounts to nearly four thousand souls, and the militia consists of seven hundred men, commanded by different captains.

The territory of Balanzat is nearly three leagues in extent, and joins Pormanie, Saint Eulalie, and Ivica. There is a church. The number of the inhabitants may be 2,500, occupying 400 houses; the military force of Balanzat consists of a company of 300 men. The space between the port of Balanzat and Ping de Nono joins the side of this quarton.

The district of Pormanie joins that of Balanzat, the Salines and Ivica; its territory is about four leagues in extent; it is chiefly mountainous, but incloses a most fertile plain; it has four hundred and fifty habitations, containing two thousand one hundred islanders, three hundred and fifty, of whom are enrolled for the defence of the country.

The quarton des Salines, which owes its name to the quantity of salt it produces, comprises Pormanie and Ivica. Its territory is only two leagues in extent; its population amounts to about nine hundred souls, and the number of the habitations are two hundred. A company of two hundred men is kept for its defence. To the south of the Salines there is a handsome plain, where the parish church is situated.

A strait of two miles separates the island of Formentera from that of Ivica. The ancients distinguished it by the

name of Pithiuses Minor. The name of Formentera, which it bears at present, seems to be derived from the considerable quantity of corn which is produced on this little island. It runs east and west; its greatest length is three leagues, but in width it is very irregular, varying from two leagues to one, and being not more than three gun-shots wide in the narrowest part. Its population amounts to twelve hundred islanders, whose habitations are scattered over the face of the country.

The anonymous author of a manuscript, in the year 1620, on the History of the Pithiusian Isles, in speaking of the Port Sali, observes, that that spot would be very proper whereon to build a city: there is stone and wood at hand. It should seem, in judging by the ruins which are still to be seen, and by the number of wells, that there was a town in existence in the time of the Romans. The same author observing, that at low water the strait could be passed over on foot, is of opinion that it could be easy to re-unite these two islands by filling up this passage. The considerable depth of water in the strait would, however, always present numerous difficulties to the undertaking, which, if surmounted, would have no other effect than to shut up, without any benefit, one of the passes of the Port of Ivica.

The climate of the Pithiuses is soft and salubrious during the summer; the breeze from the sea tempers the heat, and the cold in winter is moderate. As a proof of the excellence of the climate of these islands, they adduce the circumstance of their not having any venomous animals: it has been remarked, that those even which have been brought thither have lived but a short time. It appears to me, that this property may be more justly attributed to the quality of the earth, of which were made the celebrated vases of the ancient inhabitants of the Pithiuses. This opinion is strengthened by observing, that on the coast of Valence, that is to say in the same climate, another island is filled with serpents and venomous animals; from which the ancients named it Ophiusa, and the moderns still denominate it Moncalobrer.

The land is in general mountainous and woody; it is capable of any cultivation, but particularly for olives. The shelving of the hills presents an aspect the most favourable of any for the vine.

These islands produce a quantity of corn, wine, and oils, considerably more than serves for the consumption of the

island. The harvest of these articles could be easily made more abundant: the ambition of the islanders, who are of an indolent habit, and possessing little knowledge of the art of cultivation, is satisfied with a produce, the result of the natural richness of the soil, with as little labour as possible.

The flocks of the larger and smaller kinds of cattle are sufficiently numerous for the consumption of the islanders, but the number and quality of the horses, mules, and other beasts of burden, does not answer to the abundance and excellence of the pasturage.

Game is very plentiful in the Pithiusian isles; and there is found, about a pond in the island of Formentera, a kind of pheasant, remarkable for the beauty and variety of its plumage.

The coasts abound with fish, of a fine and delicate flavour.

The islanders are supplied with a great quantity of fruits and vegetables from their gardens; among the first the almonds and figs are admired for their quality, and among the second, the water melons are much in esteem.

The produce of flax and hemp is sufficient for the consumption of the island.

Salt is the principal article of wealth to the Pithiusians: it is collected in the month of August, and yields, in common years, from 20 to 25,000 modines, of fifteen pounds the modine, which make the amount of one hundred and seventy-five thousand pounds. The salt is conveyed on the backs of mules, to three different points of the coast, whither the merchant vessels come to freight with that commodity.

The inhabitants of the Pithiuses are in general of middle size, and active; their complexion is swarthy; they have a great deal of mildness in their character; are good seamen, and occupy themselves principally in navigation. There may sometimes be counted in the port of Ivica as many as sixty xebecks of different burthens.

The islanders have the reputation of being brave, and have more than once evinced their valour against the Barbary corsairs. Their language and costume is, with very little variation, the same as with the Balearians.

With the means of competence presented by the excellency of the soil, one is astonished at the state of poverty of the Ivicans. To the most estimable qualities they unite an indolence, and inconceivable aversion for labour: they

carry their indifference for agriculture to the length of cultivating only as much ground as will serve for their individual wants; but, little advanced in the art of culture, they abide obstinately by their old habits, and oppose themselves to every improvement which may be strange to them, or differ from the method to which they have been accustomed.

I have been made acquainted with the fact, that a Valentian, who came there to settle at Ivica, had began to till a piece of ground, to cultivate various productions according to the manner of his country; but his neighbours gave him a hint to proceed no farther in his work, and even threatened his life, for introducing innovations in the customs of the island. Nature is alone at the whole cost of supplying the Ivicans with food. There may every where be seen plots of ground, of the most excellent quality, entirely fallow. The olive trees grow and give their increase without any assistance from the cultivator; the vine is not more attended; the oil and the wine are made with so little care, and by such imperfect methods, that the islanders do not realize more than one half of the produce. A governor of Ivica tried the experiment of planting some mulberry trees in the island, and of introducing the art of breeding silk-worms. The trial succeeded: they produced specimens of silk of the finest and most beautiful kind; but this new branch of wealth was presently lost by the extreme apathy of the islanders.

The Ivicans are acquainted only with those arts which are of the first necessity; the chief object of which is to guard them from the injuries of the weather. Their habitations are without ornament, and their dress unseemly. Those of the islanders who enjoy easy fortunes, procure all their articles of comfort and convenience from Spain and the Balearics. The good Ivicans are certainly untainted by the poison of luxury. In travelling over the island, the stranger fancies himself in a country where civilization had not yet reached. There is scarcely one passable road, with the exception of those which are neighbouring on the different settlements, or which lead to the points of the coast where the vessels take their lading of salt.

CHAP. X.

CHARACTER, CUSTOMS, AND MANNERS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE BALEARIC AND PITHIUSIAN ISLANDS.

MOST travellers form their opinions of the people of a country, and affirm decidedly on their character and manners, according to what they observe most striking in the external customs in those towns through which they have passed; and their judgment is often influenced by their reception at particular houses. In the first case, we cannot depend on observations so lightly founded; and in the second, one may always perceive either a sentiment of gratitude, or the impression of some dislike. It is not generally in towns and cities that acquaintance with strangers is most easily made, and the national character developed in a manner to be depended on by the unprejudiced observer; but as the traveller draws nearer the simple inhabitant of the country, follows him into the bosom of his family, in his labours, and is with him in his national and religious festivals; he will then become more accurately acquainted with the real character and manners of the people, unsophisticated with the vices and customs of cities.

We are equally deceived, in supposing that it is possible to obtain a knowledge of the genius and character of a people from the systems of the philosophers. The disciples of Plato, in attributing these diversities to the influence of the stars and the climate, never take into consideration the nature of the government, and the mode of education, as a secondary cause. The stars, no doubt, have an influence on man, but do not govern or determine his actions; he does not owe to them the lights of reason, and his will is ever free. If it were not so, what merit would he have in the practice of virtue, or how could he be condemned for his vices. Can we admit the fabulous system of the destinies, or put any faith in the extravagancies of the judicial astrology of the impostors of every age.

We may admit that the climate has some influence on the operations of the mind, as far as the mind participates in the organic affections of the body, and the vibration of the fibres, and has an effect more or less on the circulation

of the blood; but to believe it the first and absolute cause of the genius and character of a people, seems to me to be a paradox. Do we not see nations, living under the same climate, of very different talents and disposition? And do we not also find a perfect uniformity in other nations entirely dissimilar. In the same topographical point on the globe, the borders of the Oroonoko are covered with small nations, the diversity of whose genius and character is very striking. There the traveller finds himself among a people who are lively, humane, and loyal; and eats with them the sweet fruit of the plantane and the date tree. There is another nation rude, warlike, ferocious, and ungovernable; who offer him as food the flesh, and for drink, the blood of a human creature like himself. A little farther are people whose women are martial and eloquent, and who give laws to the men, who are taciturn and indolent.

Another nation presents the spectacle of nature debased almost to a level with the brute creation, in a people who feed on the very earth, or on a kind of paste, of which earth forms a chief part. And again, a little distant are another race, so stupidly credulous in the skill of their physicians, that all the goods of the sick are left at their mercy, whether they kill or cure their patients, and the indifference and insensibility of these people is so extreme, that they place under the netting where their sick relative or friend is lain, his share of the provisions, without caring whether he takes them or not. Such are the observations which we find in the history of Oroonoko by Gumilla.

In producing the examples of savage nations, I wished to omit nothing which could determine whether climate has the influence attributed to it. Let us carry our observations to the civilized nations of Europe, and we shall often see a great similarity of genius and character, between nations under very different temperatures; let us observe the Flemings or Brabançons, and we shall find among them, the habits, the inclinations, the civil and religious customs of the Spaniards, and yet how different is the temperature. In vain has Marsden, in his first volume of the Critical History of Spain, wasted so much erudition to prove the preponderate influence of the climate. We reject the opinion that the movements of the soul are directed by the air, and follow the impressions of heat and cold like a barometer.

The religion and political government of a people are the chief causes which give to the national genius its impulse, its form, and character. With ever so little knowledge of

history, one may be convinced of this truth. Among the pagans we see the people barbarous, unpolished and superstitious, giving themselves up to their passions without restraint. The propagation of the gospel brought men back to the love of truth, and of the social virtues; the people became moderate, just, and humane. After religion, the laws, and government, with the example of those above them, have the most decisive and powerful influence. The Romans, in the reign of Augustus, were invincible; in that of Claudius, indolent and easily conquered; with Nero, cruel; and with Vitellus, vicious; they were just, merciful, and benevolent, from the examples of the Vespasians and of Titus. Without going back to so remote a period, let us consider the times in which we ourselves live. Is it the influence of the climate, which has, of people the most generous, the most humane, the bravest, and the most civilized, made at once a nation, whose excesses, crimes, and follies have astonished and shocked all Europe. Among savage people, who live under the same climate, the variety of dispositions and of character may be attributed to the want of an established religion, for which they substitute the deliriums of their own imaginations, and to the want of wholesome laws, not knowing any but those of force, nor having to their actions any other guide than their own personal interests.

National genius naturally follows the changes of the religion and of the government. The present Greeks, under the Ottoman dominion, are only ignorant, superstitious, and contemptible people, while their ancestors were illustrious in the arts and sciences, and deservedly celebrated both in the times of peace and war.

When religion and the form of government remain without any changes, the national character also continues without alteration; thus the inhabitants of the Baleares, professing the same religion, and subject to the same laws as the rest of the kingdom of Spain, have necessarily the same character, with some little difference, which is the result of a subjection to the Moors, that lasted above five hundred years; these shades of character disappeared on the continent, in consequence of easy and frequent communications with other nations.

Strabo, Diodorus Siculus, and all the historians who have preserved to us the memory of the ancient inhabitants of the Baleares, agree in depicting them as a brave, warlike people, who were extremely expert in the use of the

sling. Some difference, however, may be observed in these two authors; but it must be admitted that Diodorus, in speaking of the inhabitants of these islands, refers to an epoch anterior to their civilization. Strabo on the contrary depicts the people who inhabited the Baleares in his time. They lived, according to this writer, in perpetual peace, and in uninterrupted prosperity. Thus he calls them Irenics, or Pacific, not that these people were indolent or effeminate, for they always proved the contrary, and distinguished themselves by their courage and valour, when their enemies compelled them to take up arms.

Diodorus paints these islanders in such dismal colours, that it is with reluctance we copy the picture: "There are "some other islands, says this writer, in front of Iberia, "called by the Greeks, gymnasics, because the inhabitants "wear no clothes in summer. They are much given to "wine, which the island does not produce, and as they "have no olive oil, they grease or anoint themselves with "that of the lentisk or mastic tree, or with hog's grease. "They are so fond of women, that they will give three or "four men in exchange for one: they live in caverns of "the rocks, and so far from making use of gold or silver, "they will not suffer it to be taken from the island by "others; they affirm that these metals were the cause of "the death of Geryon, killed by Hercules. When they "went to war with the Carthagenians, with whom they "were allied, they took their pay in wine and women. "In their marriages the relations and friends enjoyed themselves with the bride while the husband got drunk. They "cut the bodies of their dead into pieces, and deposited "them in urns, on which they placed great stones."

The historian Dameto, fearing that the account given by Diodorus might leave a kind of stain or blemish on the character of his fellow citizens, and not being able to urge a better defence, or rather paying no attention to the remote epoch to which the Sicilian historian alluded, accuses him at once of deception. But of what import is it in the present days, particularly to the inhabitants of the Baleares, that their ancestors in the earliest times abandoned themselves to vices that their posterity are far from imitating? or that when they were incommoded by the heat, they wore no kind of raiment; are their descendants on this account the worse clothed?

For my part, I found among the Majorcans many estimable qualities; they shew great respect to strangers, who may,

without fear, travel by night or by day through the country; and even among the mountains, and in the most solitary places. The most hospitable reception is given to the traveller; and in accepting the civilities of the good peasantry, he is in doubt on which side the obligation lies.

Besides the amusements of the theatre, the Majorcans have some particular festivals. The carnival is spent in balls and masquerades, which are given in the great hall of the exchange.

From the festival of St. John to the month of September the streets of the city of Palma present every evening successively a most lively scene. All the inhabitants of the quarter pique themselves on decorating the fronts of their houses with pictures and draperies, and their doors and windows with glass lamps of various colours. Musicians from the bands belonging to the garrison, placed on an amphitheatre, play country dances, which are tripped to gaily and correctly by the young and active. Each side of the street is furnished with chairs for the spectators, little cakes, liqueurs, and other refreshments are carried round and sold in the assembly, and the amusements continue till daylight.

On the twentieth of August they hold a fair for cattle in a large plain, about two leagues from Palma, near an abbey of Bernardine monks. The people go thither in crowds, every kind of conveyance is engaged, even to the carts, which are hired at a dear rate. The plain is covered with little shops or booths, where in the midst of bleating flocks are groups of young people sitting on the grass, under the shade of an olive tree, enjoying a rural repast; at a little distance is another party dancing to the sound of rustic music. If a stranger appear, he is pressed to join in the festivity and partake of the feast, and they are delighted if he accept the invitation.

On the festival of the patron saint they have, in the villages, horse races, and other races of asses and mules; young lads, and even lasses, dispute the prize of agility; a large plain is the scene where these sports are exhibited; an old man with a wand in his hand keeps good order, and decrees the prize to the victor; the men are rewarded with a couple of fowls, &c. and sometimes the prizes are horse shoes; the young girls who are victorious carry home to their mothers an Indian Rebozillo. How real is the enjoyment of these happy peasants; what purity and simplicity in their manners?

In all the festivals at which the people meet together in crowds there are never any quarrels nor disturbances; a perfect harmony prevails, that at once delights and astonishes the traveller. During the whole of the time that I lived among these islanders, I never knew of any one of them being found guilty of crimes that deserved condign punishment. The thefts and outrages were always committed by foreigners. In the city the same mildness of character is observable, but is unhappily mixed with an interestedness and avarice, strongly marked. There is also to be noticed a strong tint of vanity among persons of a distinguished rank, who acknowledge no superior, and among those mechanics who fancy they have attained the utmost perfection in the art they profess: question any workman, before he answers, he will ask you if at London or Paris they execute any work as well as at Minorca; if you tell him that the superiority is on the side of the English or French, he bursts into a horse laugh and seems to pity your ignorance. Nevertheless it cannot be denied that the Majorcans have genius, with a ready conception, and talents for the arts and sciences.

The Minorcans in old times have always shared the reputation of courage and skill in the use of the sling, with the Majorcans. In the present day these islanders are reproached with a sort of apathy and indolence which they have contracted by the continual changes in different governments, to which they have been subject. The fear of having new masters makes no sort of impression on them. They receive with docility, I had almost said with indifference, the laws which are prescribed them. Content to live in a state of mediocrity, they only desire to maintain their repose. They take very little interest in political events, and always shew a decided repugnance when they leave their native place, to enroll themselves under the colours of the sovereign. If, in the time when the English were their masters, they shewed a sort of activity, it was confined to a small number of speculators and seafaring people, who enriched themselves without much trouble, by enterprizes confined to the coasts of the islands, and those of the continent of Spain. The remainder of the inhabitants preserved their natural indolence. When they were subject to Spain there were no Minorcan vessels fitted out, the facility of cruising was no longer the same, on the contrary there were dangers which they had no wish to encounter, and fame alone could not recompence a people who seemed so little sensible of

its value. A Minorcan is easily dazzled by the smallest degree of success; prosperity does not produce in him emulation, but pride and arrogance. These islanders are at the same time very envious one of another, irascible, given to hatred and revenge, and practising all sorts of shuffling tricks, in short, they have all the defects of people of weak minds, and of characters without energy. The distance that is maintained between the different classes of people is very striking. The noble thinks himself very much above the merchant, and those employed in the merchant-service; while these in their turn affect a great superiority towards the mechanic and the countryman.

The Minorcans live very retired; they, however, give the stranger an hospitable reception, and seem to see him with pleasure, but in reality all their attentions are only for the moment, and they encourage no particular intimacy; their habitations are the residences of tranquillity and solitude; their festivals have the same character with themselves. At the carnival they dress in masquerade in the evenings, and go to the houses of their friends and relations, where they dance to the sound of a guitar or wretched violin. During the evenings of the summer we often see groups of men and women in the streets, and in the centre of each group, a man and woman, who in an awkward manner imitate the Spanish fandango, while the whole of the orchestra consists of a guitar, upon which any one who pleases may play, though he knows little more of the science than running his fingers over the strings. A lamp hung over the door of the house where this group are entertained, gives light to the joyous assembly. Every one who chuses dances in his turn, and pays a trifling sum. And the ball always concludes with the most noisy acclamations.

St. John's day is celebrated by races of horses, mules, and asses, which take place in one of the principal streets of the town. The competitors are of the common people, who are extremely delighted if they win a small silver spoon, or some other trifle, as a prize in these games.

The mariners keep the feast of St. Peter by boat races in the port; those who are first in receive the prize, which is a hat ornamented with a coloured ribbon. These spectacles attract a crowd of the inhabitants, who all seem to take a great interest in the performance.

The Minorcans are generally superstitious, and much attached to their religious ceremonies and processions, in which they are always desirous of playing a part. On the

day on which the Fête Dieu is kept, whoever can exhibit themselves in the costume of the Roman warriors; whoever can send thither one of his children dressed to represent an angel, purchase to themselves the privilege of being clothed in a religious habit at the time of their death.

The Ivicans have nearly the same character and customs as the inhabitants of the Balearics; they only differ in their extreme ignorance and coarseness of manners. Nevertheless they are said to be brave and good seamen.

CHAP. XI.

THE INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE OF THE BALEARIC AND PITHIUSIAN ISLES, WITH THE DIALECT OF THE INHABITANTS.

In a country where agriculture, the first of the arts, is still in its infancy, any great degree of skill or industry is not to be expected; neither can there be any diversity of manufactures. The islanders entertain among them those arts and trades which may be denominated of absolute necessity; such as those of building, clothing, &c. The articles which are manufactured in their workshops for exportation are in no great quantity.

The Majorcans manufacture blankets, carpets, and worsted sashes, some of which are sent to Malta, to Valence, Sardinia, and even to America. Neither the quantity nor quality of these manufactures can make them very profitable articles of exportation.

The people wear a sort of coarse cloth, which is manufactured in the island; they also wear a kind of woollen striped stuff, that is equally coarse and clumsily made; a small part of this is sent to Catalonia and Valence.

The whole of their linen cloth is consumed in the island, and does not constitute one of their articles of exportation, with the exception only of the quantity for the use of the navy, which is sent to the ports of Spain. It is in general thought to be good, but is of high price.

The Majorcans manufacture their silk into taffeties, damasks, &c. which are never exported.

These islanders have a great reputation in Spain for their

inlaid-work, and they seem to me very well to observe it. Their articles have a strength and solidity which make them very durable; and in many of their designs may be noticed an execution, which must have required as much patience as skill; but it is to be regretted, that in all their labours there is still the fashion of the fifteenth century. In general their designs are mostly executed with great neatness, but the quantity and sameness of them give these articles an antique appearance, which can never please the eye of foreigners, accustomed to see the simple beautiful shapes of modern furniture. Some of the Majorcan articles, of this kind of inlaid work, are expensive, being washed with silver; but these are not so well executed, nor do they look to so much advantage. The Majorcans are not expert in the art of gilding, and there are never to be seen any of those elegant ornaments in bronze and gilt copper, which are so much admired in France.

At Palma there is a free-school, to teach the art of drawing, where the young go to take lessons in the inlaid-work. This establishment is under the protection of the society called "The Friends of the Country."

There are also two printing houses, but they only print the decrees and proclamations of the government, notices to the public, and a journal, in which is announced the arrival and departure of the trading vessels, the state of their cargoes, and the commodities which are to be publicly sold. These printing houses are so ill managed and ill furnished, that if they were united they could not print an edition of the smallest literary work.

The Majorcans make a great quantity of brooms and baskets of the leaves of the palm tree. Although this article is of little consideration, they do not fail to export it to a certain amount for the ports of Spain, and even for Marseilles in time of peace. The ventures of the masters of the merchantmen and of the Majorcan sailors often consist of the leaves of the palm.

There is a glass-house at Palma, where, however, they make only the most common glass. They do not even know how to fabricate the black glass. This manufactory does not export any of its articles.

In making the article of oil, the Majorcans, after having extracted it from the olive, content themselves with pressing it twice from the gross, or crust. This second oil is added to the first: they throw away the gross, from which,

however, they might still draw a considerable quantity of good oil.

They only make use of soft soap, and are not at all acquainted with the method of making it into cakes.

The Majorcans do not derive any advantage from their orange-flowers, angelica, wild celery, or maidenhair, nor from their immense quantity of flowers, not even from the roses. It is now four years since a French distiller, in partnership with a Genoese, set up at Majorca. The Society of the Friends of the Country welcomed them, and gave them sanction, and obtained an exclusive privilege in their favour for the distillation of orange flowers for the term of six years. I left that establishment in a state of forwardness, which gave every promise of success.

An aptitude, and even taste, for the arts and sciences of every kind, cannot be denied to the Majorcan. This island is yet but a new country, where the moral virtues of the inhabitants, and the productions of the soil, are capable of the most happy developement.

The Minorcans and the Ivicans have really no kind of manufacture which could be an article of exportation; the physical productions of their islands are the only articles of which a small portion is sometimes sent abroad.

The Balearics were for a long time the center of a flourishing and extensive commerce. They were not indebted to their local wealth for this prosperity, but to their advantageous situation, between the shores of Africa and Spain. Among the first settlers in the Balearics were the Phœnicians and Greeks: these people were merchants and seamen. They carried with them into their new settlements the spirit of trade, and their skill in navigation. The Romans, more emulous of the glory acquired by conquest than the possession of wealth, gained by deep speculations, continued, however, for their own interest, to protect the trade and navigation of those commercial nations which submitted to their laws. The inhabitants of the Balearics participated in these encouragements. They then became subject to the Moors, the descendants of the Carthagenians, who were so famous for their maritime power; for the wealth which came to their ports, for their extensive commercial connections, and for their astonishing industry and activity. If the Africans, when masters of Majorca, be compared with the conquerors of the Romans and the conquerors of Spain, we may observe, that they have always in a degree preserved the mercantile spirit, which distin-

guished and enriched their ancestors. It may also be observed that they communicated their particular habits and necessities to the inhabitants of the Balearics, as well, at the same time, as the desire of supplying them, I mean at the epoch of the conquest of Majorca by king Don Jayme the First. They yet preserve in the archives of Palma, records which are authentic monuments of the former prosperity of these islanders. Don Jayme the First, peaceable possessor of the island of Majorca, occupied himself in the partition of the lands; he kept one half, and divided the other among the lords who had accompanied him, and assisted in the conquest. The proprietors were for a long time themselves the managers of their possessions, attending to the cultivation of the grounds, and the increase of their value. Prescribed at first to the enjoyment of the particular productions of the island, they soon afterwards opened their eyes to the facilities which the situation offered for procuring in abundance all that was necessary to their wants. The inhabitant of the country was solely charged with the work of agriculture. The proprietor took up his residence in the town, became speculator, merchant, and navigator; his progress was rapid, and the most flattering success encouraged and recompensed the first efforts of his industry. Commercial establishments were formed at Palma; its port became filled with merchant ships, and these might be reckoned three hundred square-rigged vessels at the commencement of the thirteenth century. New settlers arrived to augment the population of the country, and a great number of the villages which now remain, were built about the same epoch.

The ruins of ancient edifices constitute irrevocable testimonies of remote revolutions. There are not to be seen at Majorca the remains of temples, nor of public buildings. We do not meet with those monumental inscriptions, which in Greece help to acquaint us with the religion, laws, and manners, in a word, with the history of the first inhabitants; but here the traveller will find the traces of the flourishing state of the Balearic isles posterior to those events. We cannot but contemplate with interest, the Exchange of Palma, and the grandeur of that edifice. The beauty and boldness of the architecture of which attest the wealth of the commerce, and the progress of the arts, from the thirteenth century. The inclosure of the walls of the city, on the side of the sea, is altogether modern: it separates the Place Terra-Sana from the sea-shore, of

which it formerly made part. There may yet be seen the ancient gate which communicated with the port. In going from the town to the sea-side is the suburb St. Catharine, inhabited by the sailors: this suburb formerly extended as far as the hill where the Castle of Belvoir is situated, the remains of which may still be seen; and at that time the population must have been much more considerable. The number of seamen is, without contradiction, the most evident proof of the progress and flourishing state of navigation. There is also to be seen some remains of docks for the building of ships, and of storehouses situated on the shores of the semi-circle, which is described by the road-stead to Palma.

From the time of the fifteenth century, the commercial establishments of the Genoese at Majorca were so considerable, as to have an Exchange to themselves. They then occupied the quarter of the city, now inhabited by the descendants of the Jews, who are branded with the ridiculous appellation of (*Chouettes*) owls.

They preserve in the archives of the university of Palma, some very ancient sumptuary laws, which sufficiently prove the progress of luxury, and, at the same time, attest the opulent state of the inhabitants. These laws settled the weight of the chains of gold, which, as at the present time, made a part of the costume of the women.

Majorca, from its particularly advantageous situation, was one of the principal marts for the rich and valuable commodities of India, which were brought by sea from Damietto, where they were conveyed by the caravans which crossed the deserts. The productions of Asia and of Africa accumulated in the warehouses of Palma, from whence they passed into Spain, France, and Italy. Thus Majorca was one of the chief markets of Europe; navigation and the arts were yet in their infancy; and the indolence of the neighbouring countries payed tribute to the activity of the Majorcans. At length the rays of light, from learning and experience began to spread over the continent; useful discoveries were made, and the encouragements of kings and sovereign princes, excited emulation. Men of genius, and intrepid seamen, conceived that there might be a possibility of reaching the Indies by a way not yet discovered, and of bringing back directly from thence those productions which they had been accustomed to obtain at second hand from Majorca. This island thus became only a province of Spain, and naturally lost, almost entirely, the conse-

quence of which it was possessed, at the time when it was a separate and independant state. Their maritime and commercial laws, their customs and duties, all were entirely calculated for the individual interest of the island. But an entire change took place, and Majorca was subjected to the same laws as the other provinces of the kingdom, of which the island was now a part. Palma, at the same time, was no longer the residence of a monarch, whose presence and court attracted thither a number of strangers, which circumstance encreased the wealth of the island, and encouraged the emulation of the islanders, not only in the cultivation of the lands, but also in the arts, commerce, and navigation. A more numerous population supplied labourers for agriculture, seamen for commerce, and soldiers for the defence of their country. The nobility studied the use of arms, and the art of navigation. In the records of Palma may be seen proofs, that there was not a family, of the latter class, which did not at least furnish an armed galley at their own expence. The marine military force was sufficiently strong to give protection to the active industry of ther merchants. The Barbarians, who people the shores of Africa, as far as the straits of Gibraltar, now exact from Spain a very humiliating tribute. Several of the same cantons, at that time, payed tribute to the Majorcans. The prosperity of the island, which is now only a small part of those states which compose the monarchy of Spain, insensibly languishes. The wars of the Arragonian kings first struck at their prosperity, by draining the island of men and money. Majorca, like the other provinces, being obliged to furnish its proportion. The expulsion of the Moors from the states of Spain was fatal to the prosperity of the kingdom. This measure, dictated by an absurd and perhaps ill-judged zeal for religion, by considerably diminishing the population, took from agriculture, from the arts, commerce and navigation, a great number of men, who carried their activity and industry among people who knew their value, and who offered them the comforts of a home, with the encouragement their labours deserved, free from the difficulties they were subject to in their native island. Majorca thus probably lost more than any other part of Spain by this emigration. How much has France had to regret the revocation of the edict, which in proscribing the protestants, enriched with our industry, kept away people who knew so well how to profit by advantages.

The discovery of the Cape of Good Hope made a change in the course from India; Majorca ceased to be the mart, and was itself soon reduced to receive commodities at second and third hand. The progress of navigation in neighbouring countries at length entirely deprived the island of those advantages it might derive from the activity of its navy. Such have been the causes of the decline of the commerce of the island of Majorca.

The commercial connections of the inhabitants of the Balearics do not extend at present beyond the shores of Spain, Africa, and France, in the Mediterranean. The Majorcan articles of exportation are oils, wines, brandies, almonds, oranges and lemons, beans, capers, and a small quantity of cheese.

The amount of the oil exported, is valued at about eleven millions of French livres. These oils are almost entirely conveyed to Spain and Marseilles in Majorcan vessels; a very small quantity is also exported to the North, to England, Holland, &c. but the English and Dutch come hither for it themselves.

The amount of the wines is valued at near six hundred and eighty-five thousand and seventy livres; most of which is exported in ships, which make it a part of the stores for their own use: a small part is conveyed to the continent of Spain, and some inconsiderable quantity to America.

The brandies are exported under the Majorcan flag to Barcelona, Malaga, and Cadiz, from whence they go to America. The English, Dutch, the Danes, &c. also come sometimes to Majorca for these brandies. The amount of the exportations of this commodity is about one hundred and seventy-seven thousand livres.

There are 14,000 milliers, or thousand weight, of oranges and lemons exported under the Majorcan flag to the southern provinces of France; the amount of the value exceeds two hundred thousand livres.

The amount of the cheese which is exported to Barcelona, and some other ports of Spain, is at most from thirty-five to forty thousand livres.

Almost the whole exportation of almonds goes to Marseilles: this article may amount to sixty thousand livres.

Most of the capers are also taken to Marseilles, and the amount may be from six to seven thousand livres.

Of beans, which is the only sort of pulse exported to Spain, the quantity may be valued at about forty thousand livres.

Twelve millions, two hundred and two thousand, five hundred and ninety livres, is the total amount of the physical productions of the island of Majorca, which are articles of exportation, to which the industry of the islanders adds but very little.

The Majorcans receive in exchange for their physical productions, corn, rice, salt provisions, tobacco, sugar, coffee, woollen and other cloths of different qualities, manufactured silks, and merceries of every description, drugs, gun-powder, planks, and wood for building, iron and other articles for the use of their shipping.

The grain imported from Africa amounts to the sum of seven hundred thousand livres.

The rice, salt provisions, sugar, and coffee, which they have almost entirely from France, amount to about six hundred thousand livres.

The cloth of different sorts, silks, and mercery, which are supplied mostly from the southern parts of France, are valued at nine hundred and seventy-seven thousand, nine hundred and fourteen livres.

The drugs, gun-powder, tobacco, wood for building, iron, arms, and materials for the navy, &c. which are almost all imported from Spain, amount to the sum of seven hundred and seventeen thousand, five hundred and seventy-eight livres.

The sum total of the importations in the island of Majorca, is nearly two millions, nine hundred and ninety-five thousand, four hundred and ninety-two livres.

The balance in favour of the Majorcans is, according to these calculations, nine million, two hundred and seven thousand, and ninety-eight livres, or 38,362*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* sterling.

It is well known, that the wealth of a commercial people depends on the value of their local productions, and those which their industry furnishes to other nations, in proportion to the merchandize which they receive; it is thus that the balance is settled, and that one may judge how far a nation ought to extend its commercial connections in importation as well as exportation. If commerce be the source of wealth, it is also proved, that it contributes to the decadence of a nation, from the time when it becomes too much extended; it then receives much more than it can give in exchange for its own produce.

This fact is but too sensibly experienced by the Majorcans: poor in the natural produce of the island, and having neither works nor manufactures which might supply the

deficiency. They export very few articles of their own growth to those nations, from whom they receive not only all that belongs to the convenience and enjoyment of life, but even most of those articles which are necessary to their existence.

The Minorcans export a small quantity of cheese, which is sold in Italy; the amount does not exceed twenty thousand francs, of French money. They obtain from the fleeces of their flocks a surplus of wool, which may be valued, at most, at the sum of thirty thousand livres. The honey, wax, and salt, produce about ten million livres above the consumption of the islanders. The exportation of wine, added to what is consumed in the island by the troops and foreigners, which is always paid for in ready money, amounts to about three hundred and fifty thousand livres. The islanders thus acquire, from the quantity they send abroad, only the sum of four hundred and ten thousand livres.

They import the articles of wheat, oxen, sheep, oil, brandy, tobacco, rice, sugar, coffee, and spices; woollen and other cloths, iron, planks, cordage, gun-powder, tar, &c. The amount of the importations is evidently greatly superior to that of exportation; the balance, therefore, cannot be in favour of the Minorcans.

The consumption of the English, at the time when they were in possession of Minorca, had given to the commodities of this island an extraordinary value, which put into circulation a very considerable sum, to which were added the profits the islanders derived from the sale of those articles which came from abroad. The economy of the Spaniards in their manner of living has put a stop to these advantages.

The Minorcans might nevertheless ameliorate their situation, by industry and labour. However infertile the island may be, there are many articles which the cultivation of the soil might grow to advantage.

Cotton succeeds very well, and it would be easy to increase the produce of this plant, so as to make it an article of exportation to a considerable amount. The Maltese export from their island as much as fifteen thousand quintals, besides what is used in the country. The soil of the island of Malta is assuredly not more fruitful than that of Minorca, but the Maltese have an activity which does not belong to the Minorcans. Why do they not cultivate with care and attention a number of olive trees, whose fruit would so

well recompence the labours of the countryman. The Minorcans have their oil from Majorca; they might probably be soon saved this expence, and have at the same time a surplus of their own produce.

The capers abound in every part of the island, and yet the Minorcans derive no advantage from them beyond their own consumption. How easily might they make of them an article of exportation?

Flax and hemp succeed perfectly well: might not the quantity be encreased? Why do not the Minorcans manufacture themselves the cloths which they are now obliged to have from abroad? They might probably carry this branch of industry still farther.

The canes and reeds, so common in the island of Minorca, are of that quality which is so much sought after by the drapers; and yet the Minorcans neglect to profit by this advantage.

The slate, which is found in abundance in many parts of the island, also presents a valuable article of speculation.

The free-stone, of which they have such quantities, might serve for the ballast of their outward-bound vessels, and then be sold abroad for other freight.

Mastic, aloes, and many other drugs, grow in pure waste, for the Minorcans make no use of them, and yet they might constitute articles of commerce.

Bees would thrive exceedingly in an island which so abounds in aromatic plants: those of Minorca produce excellent wax, and the honey is in much esteem. It would certainly be to the interest of the Minorcans to extend this source of wealth, by encreasing the number of hives.

The Minorcans might follow the example of the Majorcans, and derive a profit from the saffron of the island, an article of which they now make but little use.

Besides their own consumption, these islanders might export a considerable quantity of fruit. Their oranges, lemons, figs, almonds, and pomegranates are of a quality not at all inferior to the same fruits of Majorca. It would be very easy to increase the number of these valuable trees.

Salt might be made, without any trouble, a very interesting article of exportation, as the Minorcans have a means of procuring it, which is very easy. In many places on the coast the rocks are flat, and raised a little above the surface of the sea; when the wind blows fresh, the waves cover them from one end to the other, so that in time, the

salt eats into the softest parts, and forms a great number of small cavities, separated one from the other by the parts of the rock which have resisted its power; these cavities being filled with the sea water, one day's sun-shine is sufficient to dry them up, and form the salt. Women and children are employed in the evening to collect it, and fill the cavities again with water.

I have already mentioned the numerous kinds of fish with which the coast of Minorca abounds; these, if salted, might make an important article of exportation.

Navigation, in particular, presents to the Minorcans the means not only to liquidate their debts with foreigners, but another source of certain benefit. The advantages derived from navigation have raised Holland to a degree of power, which has placed it in a situation to rival those nations whose commerce was most extensive. Navigation alone has maintained the small republic of Ragusa, whose territory is so confined, and almost every where covered with barren rocks. The inhabitants of this little state were like porters or carriers of the commerce of the Mediterranean. They had deserved the confidence of the merchants of every trading nation, and their ships were not inactive in port. The Minorcans have, more than any other people, the means of successfully imitating the example of these navigators: as they are almost all seamen, the port of Mahon presents every convenience for the building and repairing of ships. Accustomed to live frugally, the victualling of these vessels would not be very expensive: they could then afford to take in freight at a price which would always give them the preference.

At the time when the island was in the possession of the English, the Minorcan merchants and seamen enriched themselves by the prizes taken by their armed vessels. Government particularly encouraged these cruisers: the warehouses of Minorca were overstocked with merchandize of every description, which was exported to great advantage into neutral countries, and smuggled into the ports of the powers which were armed against the English.

The commerce and navigation of the Minorcans necessarily suffered from the existing circumstances at the time when they sailed under the British flag; their ships were always ready to intercept the merchant vessels of Spain and France, in the Mediterranean; thus they brought into their country considerable wealth. To enrich themselves, at the expence of the English trade, it would

now be necessary to establish cruizers in distant latitudes, as merchant ships near home are generally well protected by the naval forces. On the other hand, their own merchant ships can scarcely escape the English cruisers, which are continually on the coasts of these islands. It is not surprising, therefore, to see the ports of Minorca full of unarmed vessels, which are laid up to rot in a state of inactivity.

The completion of the Lazaretto will restore, or rather fix, the prosperity and trade of the island. The wealth of the Spanish ships compelled to go thither to perform their quarantine; and the daily arrival of foreign vessels, attracted thither from the same motive, will be the means of circulating considerable sums in the island. The naval works will also be another source of riches to the Minorcans, when peace shall have given liberty and safety to the navigator. When the commerce of different nations shall have filled the Mediterranean with its flags, the port of Mahon will offer them a shelter against the tempest, and will find them the necessary materials for the purpose of refitting after a voyage. The Minorcans will profit by the facility of their situation, and of the excellence of their ports; their industry and activity will acquire a new spring. If the ship-building under the English is a source of wealth to that nation, what may we not hope from this island becoming the focus of naval repairs for numerous foreign nations. Perhaps, I repeat what I have already said, that to give, in some measure, the first spring to that prosperity, it would be necessary for the court of Spain to grant some years of freedom to the port of Mahon. The island of Minorca, poor in local productions, can only supply manufactures, for which it is by no means qualified. It is by her shipping only that Minorca can enrich herself; it is to that point that the activity of the inhabitants should be turned. In giving support and encouragement to these views, Spain would presently re-imburse herself for the loss of duties taken off for a time only; the charges of keeping the island of Minorca would be no longer a burthen on the public treasury. Every thing languishes at present; and it is proved, that the duties received from commerce and navigation are very insufficient for the expences for the use of the soldiery employed by government.

The inhabitants of the Pithiusian Isles, content with finding enough to satisfy their immediate wants, keep up but

a small share of commerce with strangers, nor even with their neighbours: it is with difficulty that they can be prevailed upon to export even a small quantity of woollen cloth, which is almost entirely consumed by the navy of Spain, and some oil which goes to Majorca; and these trips are only the particular speculations of some captains of vessels. The laws of the country but too much favour the natural indolence of the inhabitants, and their want of inclination for any foreign trade. The exportation of corn, oil, and some fruits, are prohibited. These islanders, accustomed to sow only the quantity of corn which is necessary for their own consumption, are subject, in those years when the crops are not plentiful, to the want of bread; and in those seasons that the harvest is abundant, they lose the surplus of their consumption, and, with the greatest indifference, see it rot in their store-houses. Would it not be wiser to suffer the exportation of this corn to Majorca, which, in times of scarcity, import it from Africa? On reflecting on the advantageous situation of the Pithiusian islands, between the two continents of Europe and Africa, and considering the goodness of the soil, watered by an infinite number of excellent springs, the mildness of the climate, the distribution of the habitations dispersed over the country, and thus, not forming towns or cities that are too populous, a distribution so favourable to the labours of agriculture; considering these circumstances, can one conceive the indigent state of the Ivicans? Nature has herself to supply their wants, and does it not seem, at the same time, to reproach their indolence.

The language of these islanders is nearly the same as that of the Catalonians, from which it differs only in some particular words, and in the pronunciation of many others. A Catalonian is understood perfectly by a Majorcan, a Minorcan, and an Ivican. At the epoch of the conquest of this isle by king Jayme the First, a considerable number of Catalonian families came and settled here, and introduced the use of the language of their own country. Muntaner, an historian, cotemporary with the expedition of king Jayme, affirms this fact, and adds, that there remained at Majorca, of the Moors who formerly possessed the island, only a certain number of slaves, employed in the cultivation of the lands, and a few families in easy circumstances, who had embraced christianity. Benimelis and Dameto, Majorcan writers, derive the dialect of their country from the Limosin; but certainly there is not the smallest simi-

larity between these two dialects. On the contrary, a great resemblance and conformity, and even a perfect sameness, may be observed between the Catalonian language and that which is spoken in the southern provinces of France; the same turn of expression, the same pronunciation, and almost the same words. The trifling difference which is at present observed between these two languages, proceeds from the habitual connections which consequently existed between the Catalonians and the Castilians. They still preserve, in the records of Barcelona, some acts written entirely in the language of Languedoc, and other dialects of the southern provinces of France. If there remained any doubt of the similarity and conformity between the two languages, it would be removed on seeing a person from Languedoc arrive, for the first time, in Catalonia. He would be able, without the help of an interpreter, to express his wants; at the end of eight days he converses fluently, and in less than a month he is a perfect master of the language. Coming from Catalonia to the Belearic isles, one is surprised to find any difficulty in making oneself perfectly understood, although we meet with a great number of expressions which are entirely the same as in Catalonia and Languedoc. But the language of the inhabitants of the Balearic is now a mixed jargon, composed of the dialects of the several nations which have successively been in possession of these islands. The words of which this language is composed are a sort of monumental records, that may serve to follow the series of the many revolutions which these islanders have experienced. Unless one had been accustomed from infancy to live in a neighbouring country to the Balearic, it is difficult to speak a language, which is that of Languedoc, embarrassed with words which are Syriac, Carthaginian, Greek, Roman, Vandal, Arabic, Catalonian, and Castilian. It is not easy to distinguish from which of these dialects the pronunciation which most prevails among these islanders is derived. A foreigner finds it very difficult to acquire, because of the nasal and guttural sounds. For the letter *l* is often substituted the letter *s*; and the letters *a* and *e* are perpetually confounded. For example, they will pronounce *sa camie*, for *camisa*, the shirt; *es pare* for *el padre*, the father, &c. Nevertheless, they give the true pronunciation to the article in other expressions; they do not say *es rey*, the king; *es bisbe*, the bishop; but *el rey, el bisbe*. In some villages of Majorca, as at Pollenza, the letter *l* never loses its sound in the

pronunciation of the article. These defects of language are observed in every country, where a distance of eight or ten leagues makes a difference in the pronunciation, and the language also varies very materially. A stranger would find himself very much at a loss, on his arrival at Minorca, if the islanders of a certain rank were not acquainted with the Spanish language, and the common people sufficiently so, if not to speak it, at least to understand it. At Minorca we find many persons, particularly among merchants and seamen, who write and speak very well both French and English. The length of time that this island was possessed by each of these nations, has made the use of these languages very familiar to the inhabitants.

As for the Ivicans, they differ in their jargon by a more guttural pronunciation, and very few of them understand any Spanish.

I observed with surprise, and some regret, that in these islands, while the men pride themselves on the study and use of the Spanish language, the women obstinately persist in that of their own noisy jargon; even when they know the Spanish. One can only impute this ridiculous habit to the extreme vanity of the sex, and not to that diffidence which is always an ornament to beauty.

CHAP. XII.

COSTUME OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE BALEARICS AND PITHIUSES.—ANTIQUITIES OF THESE ISLANDS.

IN reflecting on the variety of costumes which are still preserved by the inhabitants of the Balearics, I fancied that I discovered, as in their dialects, some interesting vestiges of the many revolutions they have experienced. Without referring to what is said by Diodorus, of the custom of the first inhabitants going naked, let us take them from the time of their civilization. Their clothing was then composed of the skins of animals; from whence is the epithet of *Sisrinodites*, which was given them by the poet Lycophron. At the present time this dress is still to be seen among the Majorcan shepherds. The husbandman, careless about modern fashions, preserves the habit of his ancestors: and

his costume is a kind of monumental record of a very ancient date. His *calótte* or cap, his short hair, his loose coat, his large breeches, and his shoes without buckles, recal to the mind the Greeks, who were the first allies of the inhabitants of the Balearics. The sort of short petticoat, which they wear over their breeches, appears to be the *sagum* of the Romans, in time of peace.

These islanders have not adopted the use of the *red*, a net in which the Goths confined their hair. It is rather surprising that this head-dress, which is so universal in Spain, has not gained admittance in these islands, which have mostly been peopled from the time of the conquest of king Jayme by Catalonians, amongst whom the *red* is still a distinguishing part of the costume. Of the habit of the Goths the islanders have only retained the tunic, which the ancients called *stringe*, and which they wore over their other garments, in their country employments.

Their costume has also some resemblance to that of the present Greeks, who are under the dominion of the Turks: it recals to our remembrance the reign of the Moors in the Balearics. The islanders differ particularly from the Greeks in the length of the habit, which they wear much shorter; and they have not adopted the custom of wearing whiskers on the upper lip, nor do they wear the turban.

On festival days the peasant lays aside his usual costume, and appears in the Spanish dress of the time of king Jayme the First. On seeing the black cape, the large plaited ruff, covering the shoulders and part of the breast; and the vast hat, turned up on each side, resembling that worn by the ecclesiastics of the present day, one may almost fancy that we are still in the thirteenth century. We find exactly this costume in the many portraits of that age. The simple inhabitant of the country, in these vestments, the connection of which with the time of his ancestors he is totally unacquainted with, lives happy in the bosom of a numerous family, and knows not the poison of the luxury which corrupts the morals in cities and towns.

At Papua, at Mahon, and even at Ivica, there does not remain the smallest vestige of the costumes of the ancients. The laticlava is no longer known but from history, though Strabo asserts that it was invented by the inhabitants of the Balearics. Those who inhabit the towns and cities of these isles, prefer the European habit, particularly that of the French, and they are very fond of wearing a military uniform, with the exception, however, of the Minorcans.

The women in the capital, as in the other islands, have the same costume, from the marchioness of the first family to the meanest domestics, which they wear in the house as well as abroad. The head-dress is a kind of nun's double handkerchief. The upper one, which covers the head, is longer than the chin, and leaving only the face to be seen, it spreads over the shoulders, and reaches half way down the back. The two corners are crossed in front on the bosom. This head-dress, as simple as becoming, is called *rebozillo*, and is the part of the costume on which the women set the highest value. These rebozillos are generally of fine muslin, scolloped. Many of them are valuable, from the quantity of needle-work with which they are ornamented, and the expensive lace with which they are trimmed. The women among the common people sometimes wear them made of printed calico, but more generally of a coarser muslin, and trimmed with a coloured ribbon. Women for a mourning habit wear a black rebozillo, for a near relation, and a white one, trimmed with black ribbon, for a more distant friend.

The Minorcan women wear over this head dress a second rebozillo, made of coarse red cloth, ornamented with ribbon, which is generally yellow. This rebozillo is only worn without doors; it is called the *mentete*.

The women of Ivica wear the rebozillo of a yellow colour; it is either of coarse cloth, or printed calico of a very ordinary quality. A stranger who sees, for the first time, the women of these islands, cannot help admiring the beauty of their hair, which falls below the waist, flowing at length, carelessly in the wind. But what is his surprize when he is informed that these beautiful tresses are only artificial? His astonishment increases when he sees the most charming young women carry the ridiculous folly so far as to sacrifice their own beautiful hair, the finest ornament of nature, to their prejudices in favour of this absurd fashion, and to take it from the head to which it belonged, to wear it as a false tail. What purpose, it may be asked, does this absurdity answer? It is in vain to try to account for it. The islanders themselves can give no reason for the practice. When I have attempted to find fault with the head-dress of their women, they retorted on me the wigs worn by our ladies, and indeed they seemed to have some reason on their side. In fact, nothing can be more disgusting than the head of one of our *elegantes* covered with false hair. They endeavour to excuse this

absurdity by the pretext of convenience; but we are nevertheless at liberty to believe that vanity alone gave birth to this fashion. Our French women, I hope they will pardon me, were not so wise as the foxes in the fable, who would not attend to the counsel of that fox among them, who, having lost his own tail, advised them to cut off theirs.

At Ivica it is not unusual in the country to meet women wearing a cow's tail, added to the remains of her own hair. We may reasonably doubt whether this fashion extends beyond the Pithiuses. The Minorcans always wear a corset of black silk, stiffened with strong whalebone, which confines the body tightly, and often prevents the proper growth of the bosom, from which proceeds too many inconveniencies, and probably this is one of the causes of the painful and fatal *accouchements* so frequent at Majorca. The sleeves are also worn very narrow, and terminate above the elbow. They are made open in front of the arm, and seem to be only what sempstresses call basted together: but in a mourning habit they are sewed up close; they are ornamented with several buttons of gold or silver, and sometimes of precious stones. This is a part of Majorcan extravagance. These tight sleeves preventing the free circulation of the blood, do not leave the arm room to acquire its natural roundness and beauty. In general, the Majorcan women are narrow chested, and have the arm ill-formed and thin. May this observation of a stranger, in other respects an admirer of their beauties, merit their indulgence. The corset is ornamented in front with two rows of silver buckles, placed longways, and answering the purpose of our laces, to fasten the dress close. But it is only the wives of tradesmen and mechanics who wear these buckles: the ladies have substituted a stomacher, fastened down the sides with ribbons, or ornamented with very small buttons. The women of a lower class and servants wear a half sleeve of cloth, over the sleeve of the corset. The petticoat is generally black; but sometimes in the house they wear them of white or printed calico. The black petticoats are ornamented with fringes of silk, cotton, or worsted, and sometimes only with a black ribbon. They are always worn short, to show the lower part of the leg. The Majorcan women pride themselves on always being well dressed about the feet; their shoes have very high heels. The ornaments worn by rich persons, and those in easy circumstances, consist of a necklace of pearls, which passing under the rebozillo, falls below the stomach: a

medal or cross of gold is generally attached to it, and sometimes a Maltese cross. They wear round the waist a gold chain, which on one side hangs the length of the petticoat, and is terminated by an ornament of the same precious metal, on the left side, tied with a ribbon, or fastened with a small gold chain to the corset; they wear a medallion, enclosing the portrait of the father, the husband, or the lover, but more generally the picture of a saint. The Majorcan women also wear watches, and load their fingers with a number of rings. When they go out, they cover themselves with a long muslin veil, or one of black cloth, if they are in mourning. This they call the mantilla. They always carry in one hand a long chaplet, ornamented with a large gold tassel, at the end of which hangs a cross or medal.

The Minorcans shew less taste and fancy in their dress. They also wear corsets, and flowered silk petticoats; some of them are even embroidered with gold or silver. They plait them very full on the hips, and make them as stiff as possible. Thus nothing can be more encumbered than a Minorcan lady in a gala dress; when they sit down, they remind me of our old ladies in hoop petticoats.

The women in the country generally wear under the chin, where the rebozillo is fastened, a huge bow or knot of ribbon, which they call the floque. This ornament is often made of leather. This floque seems to be a part of the thick ruffs formerly worn round the neck by the ancient Spaniards. The women of the peasantry never go out without a large hat, like that worn by the men, but ornamented with a black velvet ribbon, the ends of which fly in the wind behind the head. They, like the women of the lower class in the towns, have a sort of apron of striped calico, the whole of which is gathered close, and seems only to be a thick plaited ornament down the front of the petticoat.

At first sight, the rebozillo is the most striking part of the costume of the women of these islands. This head-dress, of which no resemblance is now to be found, except in convents of nuns, was worn in France from the time of the Merovingians until the time of the reign of Charles the Eighth. It was worn in Spain till the reign of Charles the Fifth. We still see on the mausoleums of Poplet the statues of princesses represented with the rebozillo. Saints of those days were also painted in this costume. The rebozillo seems to have been introduced in these islands by the

Catalonian women who settled here, at the time of the conquest of king Jayme the first. Father Mariana relates that the Spanish women changed the rebozillo for the mantilla in the reign of Philip the First, in the year 1506.

According to Armstrong, the antiquities of the Balearics may be divided into three classes. In the first, should be placed those of the most remote periods; in the second, those belonging to the Romans; and in the third the antiquities of the Moors.

In such distribution, this author places in the first class the monuments, which the islanders call the altars of the Gentiles. I saw several of them in the island of Minorca. The description which Armstrong gives of one of these, which is situated two miles to the E.S.E. of Alayor, seems to me to be very exact.

It is built on an eminence, and surrounded by a wall of large flat stones, perfectly well joined together. This enclosure forms a circular plan of about two hundred yards diameter. In the center is a large heap of rough stones, piled one on another without any cement. They form a cone of about thirty yards diameter, and nearly the same in height. There is a cavity in the base, the entrance of which faces the south, and into which a man may enter by stooping. They have cut around this pyramid a way about three feet wide, by which one may go to the summit, a large flat space, where seven or eight people may easily stand. From hence may be seen, to the south, a view of the sea, and on every other side an extensive prospect of the country. Within the enclosure, at some distance from the pyramid, are two square stones, one of them placed perpendicularly, and the other horizontally on the top of the first. The one on the top is sixteen feet long and seven broad, and is twenty inches in thickness. The other seems to be nearly the same size, but it cannot be measured very exactly, because it is partly sunk in the earth. There is no trace of a chissel, and it is thought that there was never any inscription nor other sculpture on this monument.

These two stones, from their situation and form, seem to have been an altar. The flat stone probably was used for the sacrifices: but as it was very high above the level of the ground, and consequently out of the reach of the priest, there is no doubt but that there must have been steps, by means of which he ascended. This conjecture is founded

on the position and shape of the stones which are found at the foot of this altar.

As for the purpose for which the islanders might have raised these heaps, Diodorus of Sicily tells us that the inhabitants of the Balearics piled stones on the graves of the dead: and it is thought that they only erected monuments in honour of distinguished persons, and very probably on opening these pyramids there would be found human bones. These heaps of stones present a kind of mute history, before the invention of writing, which serve to perpetuate the remembrance of their great men, while the songs which are transmitted from father to son may be esteemed as the commentaries. In raising these kind of pyramids, the islanders seem also to have had another purpose in view. Such monuments are always placed on eminences, and so distant from each other, that they may be seen from every part of the country. It is probable that they were at the same time intended for so many watch towers, by means of which they could discover the approaches of an enemy, and from which they might make signals to put the inhabitants on their guard, and give them time to join, and meet the foe, or to hide themselves in the caves of the rocks. These pyramids were also called by the islanders "athalais;" a name totally inapplicable, if they were not used as watch towers.

M. Cambry, in his work on the Celtic monuments, in the Etymological Vocabulary, gives the following explanation of the word atalaya:—"Atalaya, the name of the altars or stone burial places of the Balearics, in the form of the nipple of a woman's breast. Of the Spanish atalaya, which signifies, 1st, Tower or turret of observation; 2dly, Sentinel placed in the atalaya, from whence atalays, to keep watch. These words appear to be derived from the Celto-Gaulic. Adail, edifice from *a* augmentation, and *tal*, elevated, and, from the Spanish termination aya, which answers to the French termination aille, in antiquaille. Thus the atalaya of the Balearics is the *agec speculatorum*, or field of sentinels in the Bible; the menticulus of the Moabites, which Eusebius called the watch tower of the country, and which St. Jerome has translated a high place. The atalaya answers, therefore to the word, as well as to the thing, with the altare of the Latins, Festus says, "*Altaria ab altidunine dicta sunt, quod antique dus superis in ædificiis, a terra exaltatis sacre faciebant,*" which entirely explains

the atalayas, and confirms the etymology. From the Celtic tal, elevated, comes the French taille, hauteur; the Spanish tallo, tailla, talludo, of grand size; talle, tige, and the Latin tallere, elevated, raised."

If we consider the situation of this isle, and the many nations to which it has been subjected at different times, we must be convinced the inhabitants must have lived in a state of continual alarm. It was therefore very natural for a people thus exposed, to contrive an expedient which would serve at once to gain time, to repulse the enemy, or to shelter themselves from injury.

The way made round these pyramids to ascend to the summit, and the cavity which might serve as a retreat to those appointed as watchmen, leave no doubt that these monuments were raised as much for the protection of the islanders, as to honour the memory of their dead.

The situation of the altars near these pyramids naturally explains itself. It appears plain that the priests, whose duty it was to appease the wrath of the Gods, or invoke their favour by their prayers and sacrifices, placed them on the spot from whence the danger was first discovered: respect for religion caused them to surround these altars with a wall, to protect them from the approach of either men or beasts.

The simplicity of these altars is a proof of their antiquity. In the first ages of the world, all the ceremonies of religion were comprised in offering sacrifices to the Gods. The altars were only made of earth and some stones placed on an eminence. The Celtic druids multiplied these altars wherever they went; and numbers of them are still to be seen on the mountains of Scotland, in Ireland, and many other places.

The construction of pyramids built of rough stones of different shapes and sizes, placed one on another, as if by chance, and without any cement to join them together, are manifestly cyclopian.

I remarked in some places of the island of Majorca, the ruins of walls composed of enormous stones placed one on another, without cement. The aqueduct of Ternelle, at Pollenza, also seems to be of a construction anterior to that of the Romans.

Numberless medals have been found in the Balearics; and, according to Vargas, among such as have been discovered in the island of Majorca, are distinguished those

of Metellus, which are mentioned by Fulvius-Ursinus, Vaillant, and others. Dom Thomas-André de Gusseme mentions, that, according to Goltzius, a medal was struck in commemoration of the conquest of the Balearics, in the year of Rome 630, by the consul Quintus Cecilius Metellus, surnamed the Balearian. On the principal side is a Q, and near it a Jupiter's head crowned with laurel: on the reverse is a Victory crowning a trophy, with this inscription round it, "Q. Metellus Balearic." This medal, which being consulary, should have been struck at Rome, where the family of Cecilia resided, seems to be the same as that mentioned by Vargas. The medal of Canopus is very scarce; but some of Augustus, with the palm, are to be seen; some of Crispus, some of the consularies M. Balbus, Hostilius, Sacerna, and Decius, with the countersign of Majorca, little known and very scarce. Some of Gordian, the African; some of Domitia and of Pulcheria; and about five hundred of gold and silver have been found at Santagni, forming a collection from the time of Galba to that of the change of the empire. There have also been found several medals with unknown letters, and which are supposed to belong to the time of the Celtes.

In Minorca have been found medals of the Phœnicians, the Carthaginians, some of the kings of Macedon, of Philip, the father of Alexander the Great, some of Alexander, and of Lysimachus. Some Celtiberian, that is to say, belonging to the cities of Spain, situated for the most part in Celtiberia, and whose unknown character makes any explanation very difficult; some belonging to the cities of Greece, as Athens, Ephesus, Samos, and others; some of Nismes, Marseilles; some belonging to the municipalities and Spanish colonies under the dominion of the Romans: in short, some of all the emperors, empresses, Cæsars and tyrants, who at different periods governed the empire of Rome, either a part or the whole, from the time of its beginning until the sixth century of the christian æra. Several of the imperial medals, and those of the colonies had counter-marks, as D. D. P. D. and others.

Don Pedre Alonse O'Crouley, in his Castilian translation of the Essays of Addison on Medals, p. 215, places among those unexplained a Latin medal of Minorca in the following terms, translated from the Spanish: "Minorca on a medal not understood, a head which might be supposed to be that of Neptune; a man on a horse, with a crown of laurel. In the exergue, Minor.... a little ef-

faced." It seems to belong to the island of Minorca, which is called insula minor, or Balearis minor, or simply minor, in an inscription. This medal is of bronze.

It is astonishing, that there has never since been found in Minorca any one of the same kind. It seems to belong to the island, and probably was struck there, according to the custom of the ancients. The head of Neptune might characterize the first inhabitants of Minorca, who distinguished themselves by their cruises at sea, from the time of the Romans: but as for the man on horseback, on the reverse, we find nothing in the ancient writers to support the conjecture of an affinity with the same inhabitants. On the contrary, it is well known that they always fought on foot. Their principal weapon, the sling, was not at all proper to be used by a horseman. There is no author that makes any mention of their horses.

Among this quantity of medals, there are many of gold and of silver; but the most of them are bronze of different sorts.

They account for such an extraordinary number of medals, by the favourable situation of the island for the passage of the east with the west, and of Spain with Italy and Africa. As another cause of this quantity of medals, they mention the arrival of several Spanish families, who, at the beginning of the fifth century, driven by the Suevi, the Vandals, and other barbarians, sought an asylum in the island of Minorca. The bishop, St. Severus, who at that epoch filled the see of Minorca, mentions this event in one of his letters.

They still continue to find in this island medals, which are almost all of the Roman emperors and empresses; some of them are rather scarce, such as those of Galba, Clodius Albinus, the young Gordian, the African; Quintillius, Aurelian, and Severina his wife; Helena, the wife of Constantius Chlorus; Elia Flacilla, the first wife of the great Theodosius, &c. &c. Medals of Rome and Constantinople, of the time of Constantine the Great, are also very common.

As for the medals of the time of the Arabs, which were found in the Balearics, they were almost all of silver; many of them have been melted down, and it does not seem that any of them have been explained.

There was also found at Minorca a gothic medal, struck, according to all appearance, at the end of the thirteenth century; it is of small bronze; on one side, in a circle, is a

head turned to the left, wearing an open crown with flowered work, and round it the inscription, Alphonsus rex. The reverse side presents an escutcheon, with the bars of Arragon, and the inscription, Minoricarum. We meet with other medals, where the head shews the full face. No numismatic author has mentioned these medals. The most probable opinion is, that they were struck by the order of Alphonso the Third, king of Arragon, in memory of the conquest of the island of Minorca, which was taken from the Moors in 1286.

On the side of the island of Majorca, near Pollenza, in a place which is still called the colony, there have been found some remains of antique sculpture; among these is to be distinguished a head in tolerable preservation, which is supposed to belong to a statue of Metellus.

Among the statues of bronze I saw a small Hercules; a leg and a finger of extraordinary size, finished with a great deal of care; a figure of a man bathing; and a small bull. I was shewn also several cinerary and lachrymatory urns, with some sepulchral lamps, all of them of earth.

They have also discovered in the island of Minorca, several small statues in bronze, representing the Egyptian, Greek, and Roman divinities, such as Diana, Cupid, Fortuna, Isis, Apis, Osiris, &c. but none of them are of very fine workmanship. The statues shew that the worship of these divinities was established in the island of Minorca.

Almost the whole of the literary curiosities have been taken away by the different nations, which have alternately possessed the island of Minorca during the last century; it is principally in the collections at London and Madrid that the most curious relics of the ancient history of the Balearics are to be met with.

At Minorca there have been found a great quantity of vases, sepulchral lamps, and cinerary and lachrymatory urns, all of a red earth. We know from history, that the Romans were not the only people who had the custom of inclosing the ashes of the dead in urns. It was also established among the Carthaginians and Celts. The whole of these vases differ not the one from the other neither in form nor materials. It is difficult to distinguish whose ashes these urns enclose; some of them bear inscriptions, in Roman characters, which decide the question as far as relates to them. Vargas, in his description of the island of Majorca, has two Roman inscriptions mentioned by M.

Serra, of Majorca, in a dissertation on the antiquities of that island. In the originals of these two inscriptions several letters were entirely effaced, and spaces left, which M. Serra thought he was able to fill up. The authenticity of these two inscriptions is not proved. One may doubt also, that they were found in the island of Majorca. It is from this uncertainty that I have omitted giving them a place in this work.

Several Roman inscriptions have been also discovered in the island of Minorca, but most of them are so much effaced that it is impossible to read a single word.

In one of these inscriptions only the first line can be distinguished:

Q. CORNELIO...

It is a reasonable conjecture, that the rest of the inscription express the gratitude of the islanders for the services rendered them by this Roman.

Another, in better preservation, is consecrated to the memory of Lucius Fabius:

L. FABIO. L F.
Q VIR
AED. II VIR. III
FLAMINI. DIVOR
AUG. R. P. MAG
OB. MULTA. EIUS
MERITA

This inscription is engraven on a grave-stone, which is fixed into the wall of a house at Mahon.

According to Titus Livius, there was a city in the island of Minorca, at the epoch of the punic war.

Pliny the elder, who wrote towards the end of the first century of Jesus Christ, speaks of three cities which were then in existence in the island of Minorca, and which were called Magon, Jamnon, and Sanicera; and, according to St. Severus, bishop of Minorca, the two first were founded by the Carthaginians.

Several modern writers have followed the opinion of bishop St. Severus; others insist that one might with equal justice give their foundation to the early Phœnicians, that they might serve them for ports in the voyages they were constantly making to Spain. To this day there have never been found any ancient medals of these cities in characters,

either Phœnician or Carthaginian, which could assist to decide the question.

Armstrong speaks of another city under the name of Labon, of which no vestiges remain to point out the place where it had existed. According to that author, one might suspect that the city was the same as the present Alayor; the modern name seems to assist the conjecture; the consonants *b* and *v* are often confounded in pronunciation by most of the people of the South. Instead of Labon, it should be pronounced Lavon, which might have in the course of time been pronounced Laion, then Laior, and at length Alaior. This etymology may seem ingenious, but it does not account for the silence of ancient writers on the existence of Labon.

Neither does there remain any traces of the place where Sanicera, a city mentioned by Pliny, was situated. It is conjectured that it was built on the shore of the port Fornels; but no discovery has been made to support this opinion.

It is certain that the Minorcans were in the pay of the Carthaginians, and signalized themselves in the wars which they had to sustain; it is therefore the more surprising, that in the number of Carthaginian medals which are found in the island of Minorca, there are none which were struck at the epoch of the foundation of the three cities, whose names ancient writers have transmitted to us. It is, however, not impossible that such medals may yet be found in some future researches. It is not long since Phœnician, Celtiberian, and Roman medals, were found in Spain, of which there was no prior knowledge.

As for the antiquities belonging to the time of the Moors, there are still to be seen at Majorca some ruins of buildings which are in tolerable preservation. The country house belonging to an individual at Enfabia, was formerly, according to general opinion, a pleasure house of a Moorish prince, who reigned over part of the island of Majorca. In fact, the ancient part of this habitation has all the characters of the construction and taste of the Arabs, both in the architecture and ornamental parts.

Over the gate of the convent of St. Marguerite, may be seen a stone bearing an inscription, the characters of which are Arabic; but they are so much effaced that it cannot be read.

The monks of La Merci preserve a vase which they say

belonged to the time of the Moors; it is a sort of earthen ware.

At Minorca are the ruins of a Moorish castle, on Mount Agatha. Over the gate of one of the towers is an inscription in the Arabic language, but there remains only some almost effaced traces.

On an arch which is at the east extremity of the parish of Mahon, is to be seen the following inscription in Gothic letters:

XVI..... FEBROARII
ANNO. DNI. MCCLXXXVI.
PO. PRESA. LA. YEA. DE. MENORCA.
R. N. A. M.
NOS. BON REY. D' ARRAGO.

This inscription, which I have copied in more intelligible characters, refers to the conquest of the island, on the 16th of February, 1286, by Alphonso, king of Arragon. It settles to a certainty the epoch of that conquest.

Near the centre of the city of Mahon are the remains of a gate, which is manifestly Arabic; it serves as an entrance to a street called the Old Ravalle.

There is no doubt but that the Moors, during the time of their dominion in the Balearics, built a number of mosques and other edifices which have been destroyed by time, and probably more by the fanaticism of religion, at the epoch when christianity was established in the island. The custom of the Moors of using stones of an enormous size in the construction of their buildings, which were placed one on another, without regularity, and almost such as they found them on the earth, or as they dug them out of the quarries, strengthens the opinion that they were the authors of most of the athalaias, or watch-towers, which are found in the island of Minorca.

CHAP. XIII.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE BALEARICS AND PITHIUSES.

Before Christ. THE most ancient names by which the Balearics and Pithiuses were known, all of a Phœnician or Greek origin, leaves no doubt but these people were

Before Christ. the first that settled there. This opinion is confirmed by Strabo. According to this author, the Bœotians and the Rhodians, a short time after the famous siege of Troy, came and established colonies in the Balearics.

663. The Carthaginians, masters of the Pithiuses, attempted to invade the Balearics, but they were not able to stand against a shower of stones hurled with astonishing celerity by the islanders whose principal weapon was the sling.

They renewed the enterprize, and were not more fortunate in a second expedition, which was from the ports of Sicily.

Himilcon and Hanno, Carthaginian generals, in going from Carthage to Spain, arrived at the Balearics; they did not attempt to land by force of arms, but presented themselves as friends: subtil in their conduct; the mildness of their manners conciliated the minds of the inhabitants, who seemed to be untameable, yet they submitted without resistance, to a yoke thus presented with demonstrations of friendship. They saw with satisfaction the settlements which their new guests busied themselves in forming. The Carthaginians laid the foundations of two cities in the island of Minorca, to which they gave the names of their most famous generals.—Magon built Mahon, and Hanno founded Jamnon, or Jama.

406. The natives of these islands took a part under the banners of the Carthaginians, and five hundred renonwed slingers followed them for the first time, when they went to Sicily, to punish the Agrigentines for their treachery; they continued their services in the army which marched against Denys, the tyrant of Syracuse. In this second expedition, these islands furnished a new reinforcement of three hundred slingers. These troops signalized themselves, and had the greatest share in the success of the Carthaginians. Hanno, in the entire conquest of Sicily, received succours from the Balearics, which determined the victory in his favour.

276. These islanders served with the same zeal in the expedition of the Carthaginians against Pyrrhus, whom they compelled to abandon Sicily.

250. Conquerors of the Romans, the Carthaginians re-

Before Christ. turned in triumph to Majorca, puffed up with their victories, they behaved with arrogance, and conducted themselves in such a manner as to cause the inhabitants to revolt, take up arms and drive them out of the island. Hamilcar, by his mildness calmed the resentment of the islanders, and they renewed their connection with the Carthaginians. Three hundred Majorcans fought at the famous battle against Consul C. Luctacius; a battle which made the Romans masters of Sicily, and terminated the first Punic war.

Hannibal commenced the second. At the siege of Sagontia, this general reckoned in his troops eleven hundred and fifty slingers, from among the inhabitants of the Baleares. These islanders were in his service when he carried his forces into the heart of Italy, and had always a distinguished share in his victories.

214 The Romans having passed into the continent of Spain, Cneus Scipio, master of the sea, failed in an enterprize against Ivica. He was more fortunate at Majorca, whose inhabitants received him, joined their forces to his troops, and fought under his banners against the Carthaginians, who had the Minorcans on their side, and had considerable succours from them, which they payed for, as they had done before, by giving them women and wine, which formed the predominant passions of these islanders.

The Carthaginians driven from the peninsula, the Majorcans recovered their former liberty; but they only made use of it to give themselves up to piracy. Their excesses attracted the attention of the Romans; the consul Quintus Cecilius Metellus set out with a fleet to put a stop to their depredations.

This general, on his appearance before Majorca, had taken the precaution of covering the outside of his vessels with leather; this sort of barricado deadened the force of the stones which were hurled by the slingers, and made them of no effect. Quintus Cecilius Metellus conquered the whole of the island, which obtained him the honours of victory, and the surname of Balearicus. Before his departure from Majorca he founded the cities of Palma and Pollenza, giving them the title of colonies. This gene-

ral added to the two thousand Romans which he left on the island, three thousand others, which he sent for from the continent.

After Christ. The islanders continued faithfully attached to the republic, and their slingers served in its armies all the time that they enjoyed the blessings of peace. At the time when the republic was the prey of internal divisions, and was distracted by the civil wars, the Majorcans refused to take part with Sertorious, who came to invade Ivica, and joined the party of Cneus Pompey, the son of Pompey the Great, who defended the senate.

Majorca shared the fate of the other provinces of the republic subjected by Cæsar, and remained under the government of the successors of that conqueror. The famous deputation sent to Rome by the inhabitants of the Balearics, to implore the succour of some Roman legions against an extraordinary number of rabbits which made devastation among the wheat in the little island of Conejera, was in the reign of Augustus.

These islands, always under the dominion of Rome, made part of citerior Spain, and were dependant on the jurisdiction of Tarragon until the end of the reign of Constantine.

From the time of this emperor, until the death of Theodosius the Great, these isles had a particular government, the principal seat of which was at Majorca.

427 The division of the empire; the imbecility of Honorius; and the ambition of Saint-Hilicon, opened the gates of Spain to Gunderic, king of the Vandals, and made these islands an easy conquest.

The Africans, ever eager for conquest, having vanquished the continent of Spain, attempted several times to make themselves masters of the Balearics; and, after failing in many enterprizes, at length succeeded. The possession of these islands considerably augmented their marine forces. Their vessels began to infest the seas, and to exercise an insulting superiority. Charlemagne armed his forces against these pirates, and vanquished the barbarians, destroyed their fleets, and took the islands from them.

857 Nevertheless, they soon recovered the possession of them, but were not able to prevent a party of Nor-

After Christ. man adventurers effecting a landing on the island of Majorca, where they committed many depredations.

993 The Africans, become the peaceable possessors of the Balearics, fitted out an expedition to Catalonia. Twice they besieged Barcelona, and at length took the place, after a battle, where Count Don Borellos lost his life.

1102 Count Don Armengol met the same fate in an enterprize which he attempted against Majorca.

1108 The Africans had arrived at such a degree of power, that they were become absolute masters of the sea. Puffed up with their successes, and depending on their force, they no longer kept any measures, but practised every species of robbery and piracy. Their audacious excesses excited the resentment of all the christian powers. The Pisans first armed against them, took from them the island of Ivica, and possessed themselves of part of the island of Majorca.

1115 The Africans having again possessed themselves of Majorca, Don Raymond Beringer the Third, Count of Barcelona, having assembled some troops, came and attacked the island, of which he subjected the greatest part, after taking the capital. Obliged to return immediately to his own estates, he confided the keeping of his recent conquest to some Ge-

1147 noese, who sold it to the Barbarians; who, again masters of the island, began their depredations

1178 afresh on the coast of Spain, and particularly in-

1204 fested Catalonia. Don Raymond, Count of Barcelona and Prince of Arragon, seconded by the King Don Alphonso the Second, and Don Pedro, his son, took up arms and prepared an expedition against the Balearics, but it was not carried into effect.

1229 The Barbarians continued their piracies, and desolated the shores of the continent, and at length excited the indignation of Don Jayme, the son of the king of Arragon; which young prince formed the plan of taking the Balearics from these proud Africans, whose continual depredations alarmed and impoverished the neighbouring nations. Don Jayme assembled an army of sufficient force for the enterprize which he meditated. He sailed from Salona, a port of Catalonia, to the shores of Majorca, where

After Christ. he effected the landing of his troops, although he met with strong resistance from the Africans. He soon attacked them in a second battle, in which he lost Don Raymond de Moncade, one of his generals, in whose valour and experience he had great confidence. At length, after a number of actions of less importance, and after a siege, where the Moors performed prodigies of valour, the gates of Majorca were opened, and the rest of the island soon submitted to the force of arms. Don Jayme divided the lands between the noblemen who had accompanied him and assisted his conquest. Some Barbarian families remained in the island, and retained in part their possessions.

1230 Don Jayme, after having settled the administration of the island of Majorca and established a governor, and after having given his orders for the building of the cathedral church, returned to his estates on the continent. But soon the preparations of the king of Fez, who threatened the invasion of the island, the loss of which he so much regretted,
1232 brought Don Jayme again to Majorca; who, when the alarm had subsided, returned to the continent. The conspiracies of a certain number of Moors who remained in the island, the disturbances they had excited, recalled once more Don Jayme to Majorca. This handful of rebels returned to their duty; and the prince sent deputies to Minorca, to engage the inhabitants to place themselves under the jurisdiction of his laws. The Minorcans consented to become tributary to the crown of Arragon. The two islands of the Balearics then passed as a feudal tenure from the crown of Arragon, under the dominion of Don
1244 Pedro, Infant of Portugal, the son of Don Sancho the First, who, at the same time, added the island of Ivica to his possessions. The imbecility of Don Pedro soon changed the fortune of the isles, Don Jayme was again in possession of his rights; and Majorca had for the fourth and last time the good fortune to regain its sovereign. This prince consulting a love of glory, and the indulgence of a perhaps ill-judged devotion, formed the plan
1269 of an expedition to the Holy Land. He assembled his troops, and the island of Majorca furnished five thousand men and three men of war.

After Christ. 1273 Don Jayme, when he died, divided his possessions between his two sons. Don Jayme the Second had for his share the Balearics and Pithiuses, and part of the estates on the continent. The will of Don Jayme the First, surnamed the Conqueror, gave him the independant title of king.

To appease the resentment of Don Pedro, his eldest son, the prince, consented to acknowledge himself his vassal. Don Pedro having, in the mean time, undertaken an expedition against Africa, touched at Minorca, and endeavoured to gain over the governor of that island, who was feudatory of Don 1185 Jayme. This governor pretended to enter into the views of the king of Arragon, and engaged to give up to him the island of which he had the government; but, in the mean time, he informed the king of Majorca of all the manœuvres of his brother. Don Pedro swore to be revenged for this perfidy; declared open war against Don Jayme; raised an army, and prepared to invade his territories; but death surprized him at the moment when his plans of vengeance were ready be to put in execution.

1286 Don Pedro dying, left his crown to Don Al-
1287 phonso, his son; and at the same time transmitted to him his hatred against Don Jayme. Alphonso carried into effect the intentions of his father, and invaded the Balearics and Pithiuses.

The conquest of Minorca cost him more trouble than any of the rest of the islands. He met with an obstinate resistance on his landing. The Moors anticipated the time of his coming, and waited for him on the shore. After a bloody battle, he succeeded in driving before him the troops of the almoxariffe, or Moorish governor. They, however, continued fighting as they retreated, and gained the fort on Mount Agatha, where they defended themselves. Alphonso soon besieged it; but, after having without effect performed prodigies of valour, and despairing of taking the castle by force, he formed the resolution of reducing it by famine. The garrison were almost without provisions, and could not receive any from Africa; they therefore offered to capitulate. The conditions were, that those Moors who could pay their ransom should have the liberty of returning to Africa, and that the rest should be

After Christ. reduced to slavery. The fort of Saint-Agatha was given up the 17th of January 1287. The almoxariffe, his family, and, at most, about a hundred of the most distinguished Moors embarked, and were lost on their passage. The remainder of the Moors, to
1298 the number of about twenty thousand remained in slavery. Alphonso divided the lands of the vanquished between those who had seconded him in his enterprize; and christianity was the only religion tolerated in the island.

Alphonso, who was not more than twenty-seven years of age, died at the moment when he began to enter into an arrangement with Don Jayme, his
1311 uncle. Don Pedro the Second, of Arragon, the successor of Alphonso, in compliance with the solicitations of many powerful princes, reinstated his grand-uncle in his estates; but exacted of him, that he should acknowledge himself his vassal.

Don Jayme reigned peaceably till his death. His eldest son having retired into a cloister, his crown passed to Don Sancho, his second son. Don Ferdinand, the third son, was gone to the east with those troops out of Catalonia, who were as celebrated for their exploits, as for the unfortunate fate they there met with. Don Sancho reigned without disturbance, in spite of the manœuvres of his enemies, who endeavoured to displace him, and to prejudice him with the court of Sarragossa. This prince ended his days in 1325. It was in the same reign that they fix the martyrdom of the good Raymond Lully, whose name is mentioned to this hour with the greatest veneration by the islanders.

Don Jayme, the son of Don Ferdinand, and nephew to Don Sancho, ascended the throne. Don Jayme, of Arragon, taking advantage of the minority of this prince, set up fresh pretentions to the kingdom of Majorca. The young monarch consented to hold his crown under him, and thus ter-
1328 minated all disputes; he also furnished troops in an expedition against Sardinia.

Don Jayme, of Arragon, when he died, left his crown to Don Alphonso the Fourth, father-in-law to Don Jayme, king of Majorca, who also held his kingdom under him. After the death of Don Alphonso, of Arragon, the king of Majorca sent some

After Christ. succours to the princes of the continent, whom Albohasen, who remained master of a part of Spain, had compelled to take up arms. A squadron of eight galleys, well armed, went from the ports of Majorca, and carried a reinforcement of troops.

Don Pedro, who had ascended the throne of Arragon, contrived the ruin of the king of Majorca; he first declined his assistance to support him in his disputes on the subject of the principality of Montpellier, for which the king of Majorca had refused
1339 to pay homage to the king of France; and taking advantage of the embarrassment of his brother-in-law, deprived him of all his estates on the continent. He concealed his ambition by accusing Don Jayme of not having appeared before the court to which he had been cited; and thence took occasion to declare that he had forfeited his right to the crown. He even went so far as to accuse Don Jayme of having had, on former occasions, a design of seizing his person. Resting on these motives, Don Pedro
1343 raised an army, landed at Majorca, conquered the troops of Don Jayme, and took possession of the whole island, which he added to the crown of Arragon.

1349 Don Jayme, thus reduced to the last extremity, implored succour from France, and obtained from thence some troops, with which he landed in the island of Majorca; but he lost his life in an action where he fought desperately. This prince was the last of the independant kings who reigned at Majorca.

1351 The Balearics, thus added to the crown of Arragon, the islanders furnished troops in all the wars which that power had to sustain. Their ships made part of the naval force which the king of Arragon sent to sea against the Genoese; and the Majorcans contributed not a little to the defeat of these republicans before Constantinople.

Peter of Castile, irritated by the captures made by the Majorcan fleet, or at any rate making it his pretext, declared war against the king of Arragon, and appeared first with his squadron before Barcelona; but being compelled to retire by the army of Arragon, his fleet attempted, without success, a coup de main, on the island of Ivica, but was soon

After Christ. obliged again to retire, on hearing that the king of Arragon had proceeded to Majorca, and pursued him with a superior force.

This war, in which the Majorcans played a principal part, drained them of both men and money; and cost them 140 large vessels, which they lost in different engagements.

1375 However, Don Jayme, king of Naples, the son of the last king of Majorca, endeavoured to regain the possession of the estates of his ancestors. The differences between Arragon and France, the troubles which disturbed Castile, all seemed to favour his plans, when death put a stop to his views, in the year 1375.

The date of the celebrated Balearic clock, which belongs to the town-hall at Palma, answers to this epoch. Many absurd stories have been related by different authors on the subject of this clock, which by some is supposed to have been brought from Babylon or Jerusalem, in times as remote as the days of Solomon. This piece of mechanism may certainly be considered as one of the most ancient of the kind.

In 1391, the Jews experienced in Spain a most cruel persecution, which extended to those who were settled at Majorca, and the quarter of the town which was inhabited by these people, was pillaged without mercy.

Four years after this, Don John, of Arragon, flying from the plague, which ravaged the kingdom of Valencia and Catalonia, took refuge at Majorca; and died there a year after his arrival.

In 1398, the court of Arragon armed to make reprisals on the Algerine corsairs. The fleet which sailed from the ports of Majorca consisted of seventy sail, of which thirty-five belonged to Valencia and Catalonia; the other thirty-five were fitted out by the Majorcans. Their cruise was on the coasts of Africa, the shores of which they ravaged to a great extent, and retired in the autumn, enriched with many considerable prizes.

From the year 1394 to 1404, the island of Majorca experienced a sterility; the miseries of which they could but little mitigate by the succours they obtained from the neighbouring countries. Majorca al-

After Christ. drained of men and money, by the continual contributions with which they supplied the king of Arragon in the several wars, began sensibly to decline in power and splendour. The progress of the Africans, who had freed themselves from the tribute which was payed by the cantons of Tunis, Bugis, and Constantine; the increase of their trade, and their frequent incursions in the island, completed the ruin of Majorca.

At the death of Don Martin, the last male of the family of the Counts of Barcelona, several princes laid claim to the possession of the Balearics. Majorca was, at the time, the prey of intestine dissensions. In an assembly of the nobility, where Saint-Vincent Ferrer was called to decide, the crown was decreed to Don Ferdinand, Infant of Castile, nephew of Don Pedro the Fourth, king of Arragon. Saint Vincent Ferrer, whose opinion had decided the suffrages in favour of the prince, dedicated himself to the service of the church, and preached the tenets of religion in the island of Majorca. They still preserve, in the cathedral of Palma, the pulpit of this saint.

The commerce of the Majorcans continuing to decline, the island soon felt the want of the grain which they no longer imported; the harvests were not sufficient to supply the wants of the people. Majorca, torn by intestine commotions, was unable to pay a considerable sum which was owing to Barcelona. The forces of the island were continually drained by the supplies sent to Don Alphonso, of Arragon, the son and successor of Don Ferdinand. This prince had formed the enterprize of getting himself crowned king of Sicily, after the death of queen Jane. His army was defeated by the Genoese, by whom he was made prisoner, as well as the king of Navarre. This prince, released from his imprisonment, again attempted the conquest of Naples. The Majorcans furnished him with four galleys and thirteen hundred soldiers.

Under these unhappy circumstances, Majorca had experienced new misfortunes: the country people irritated with the burthens they had to bear, and displeased with the pride and stiffness of the nobility, entered into a confederation among themselves

After Christ. and hoisted the standard of revolt. The nobles were compelled to take to arms. Don Alphonso sent troops from Naples to quiet these disturbances; but during three years there was a civil war among the Majorcans; the ravages and desolation of which extended all over the country.

The families of different great houses on the continent had taken to arms, as had several princes whose estates were situated near the Balearics. Don John, of Castile, fought against Don Henry, his eldest son; Don Charles, son of Don John of Navarre, attempted the crown of his father; and Charles, king of France, had to punish the revolt of his son Louis.

1460 Alphonso, king of Arragon, died in those commotions, and left his dominions to John of Navarre, his brother; Charles, son of John of Navarre, retired to Majorca. The islanders made expensive preparations for the reception of this prince, but who, being at length restored to the favour of his father, returned to Barcelona. His premature death, which was attributed to poison, was the cause of an insurrection in a part of the kingdom of John of Navarre. The fury of revolution communicated itself even to the island of Minorca. The Majorcans, in this critical juncture, armed and furnished a number of troops and ships for Don John. The insurrection of the Minorcans was quelled after a

1465 few skirmishes. Four squadrons were collected about this time on the coasts of Arragon and Catalonia. The first, consisting of twenty sail, was fitted out by the rebels. The second carried the French flag, and seconded the operations of the first. The two others, fitted out by the Majorcans and Minorcans, assisted the cause of Don John.

1473 The Majorcans were scarcely extricated from these ruinous wars, when they were afflicted with the plague, which was brought there by a merchant ship from the Levant. This scourge almost desolated the island.

1479 Don Ferdinand, the Catholic, succeeded Don John of Arragon in all his estates, and in the kingdom of Castile. This prince founded a university at Majorca, which had the same laws, and enjoyed the same privileges, as that at Lerida. During the

After Christ. whole of the reign of this monarch, the Majorcans served under his colours with distinction. These islanders signalized themselves at the taking of Grenada and the conquest of Naples, and in the expedition of Don Pedro of Navarre against the Africans. Ferdinand having prepared for his expedition to Naples, the Castilian lords refused to accompany him in his voyage. Twenty of the richest nobles of Majorca had attended Ferdinand at his court. The islanders completed the signal services which they had done this prince, in furnishing him with fresh succours against Barbarossa, who be-
1483 sieged Buges, and was on the point of becoming its master.

In the reign of the successor of Don Ferdinand, the country people of Majorca again revolted, under the pretext that they alone supported the expences of the island; that the nobles, free from every tax, exercised over them the greatest tyranny; they therefore took up arms, and forced the viceroy to quit the island, and take refuge in Ivica.

This second civil war was still more grievous than the former. The people, thus given up without restraint to their passions, committed the greatest excesses. The nobles, on their side, opposed them with the most vigorous resistance. Alcudia offered them an asylum, where they defended themselves till the end of the troubles, which terminated with the punishment of the principal rebels.

Internal peace being established in the island, under the reign of Charles the Fifth, the islanders became exposed to the incursions of the Barbarians. Barbarossa, thirsting to be revenged for the loss of Tunis and of his cruizers, appeared before Majorca with a squadron of eleven galleys. The fires which the islanders kept up on many points of the coast, made Barbarossa believe that the victorious fleet of the emperor was not far distant. Hence, fearing he should be engaged in an action, where he had every thing to risk, he thought proper to retire, and made an attempt on Minorca, of which he made himself master.

In 1541, the emperor, having projected an expedition against Algiers, assembled his naval forces in the ports of Majorca, from whence he set sail. A

After Christ. number of the Majorcan nobility embarked in his fleet. The expedition was not fortunate, but drew on the islanders all the resentment of the Barbarians, who determined to ravage the shores of Majorca; and attempted several times, but without success, to take possession of Alcudia and Polenza: they were also repelled in an attempt to make a landing on the side of Valdemusa and Andraiga.

For twenty years afterwards the island remained at peace, nor did any thing particular happen till 1662, when it again furnished 300 men for the war against Portugal.

1665 During the whole of the reign of Charles the Second, the island of Majorca was at peace with all powers, but suffered perpetual divisions among the magistrates and clergy concerning their privileges. These differences occasioned many long debates, and ruinous law suits.

At the beginning of the 17th century, the archduke Charles subjected the whole of Arragon. Majorca was given up to general Lach, who commanded a fleet of forty ships. The other islands also submitted to the house of Austria.

After the taking of Barcelona, marshal Berwick sent the chevalier Ashfield, at the head of ten thousand men, who took possession of Majorca. The islanders made no resistance.

The Majorcans served in the war of succession, but did not take any part, the detail of which would be interesting. The Marquis de St. Philippe, in his Commentaries on the War of Succession, and Quincy, in his Military History of the Reign of Louis the Fourteenth, makes honourable mention of the services of the Majorcans.

In 1708, the English, under the command of major-general Stanhope, took possession of Majorca, which they preserved by the treaty of Utrecht.

The French, commanded by marshal de Richelieu, took this island from the English in the year 1756.

In 1798, Minorca was given up to the English by the Spanish governor.

The treaty of Amiens has again put Spain in possession of this island.

END OF ST. SAUVEUR'S TRAVELS.

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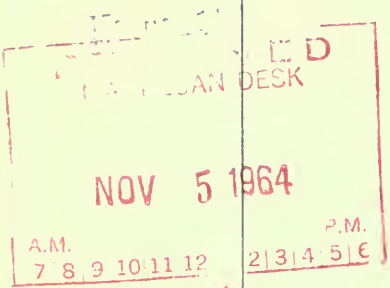

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